19

THE MELANCHOLY of HARUHI SUZUMIYA

ART BY GAKU TSUGANO

STORY BY NAGARU TANIGAWA

CHARACTERS BY: NOIZI ITO

Kadokawa Comics A

THE MELANCHOLY of HARUHI SUZUMIYA 19

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Yen Press

After Haruhi's rigorous selection process, a new member has been selected for the SOS Brigade! But Kyon feels uneasy around Yasumi Watahashi, not only because of the girl's odd behavior, but also because he knows the peculiar—and sometimes dangerous—types who tend to congregate around Haruhi Suzumiya...

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OLDER TEEN OT LV

Yen Press

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...I'LL DO IT!
I'VE WORKED REALLY HARD!
THE SOS BRIGADE'S THE ONLY CLUB I'M TRYING OUT FOR!
I'LL DO ANYTHING YOU TELL ME TO DO!
EVEN IF YOU TELL ME TO CATCH THE MOON'S REFLECTION IN THE WATER...
...COULD SHE BE A FIFTH POWER...?
THIS FRESHMAN WITH HER HARUHI-LEVEL FITNESS...
BAAN (BAAN)
α—9

ORIGINAL STORY
NAGARU TANIGAWA
MANGA
GAKU TSUGANO
CHARACTER DESIGN:
NOIZI ITO
19
THE MELANCHOLY of
HARUHI SUZUMIYA

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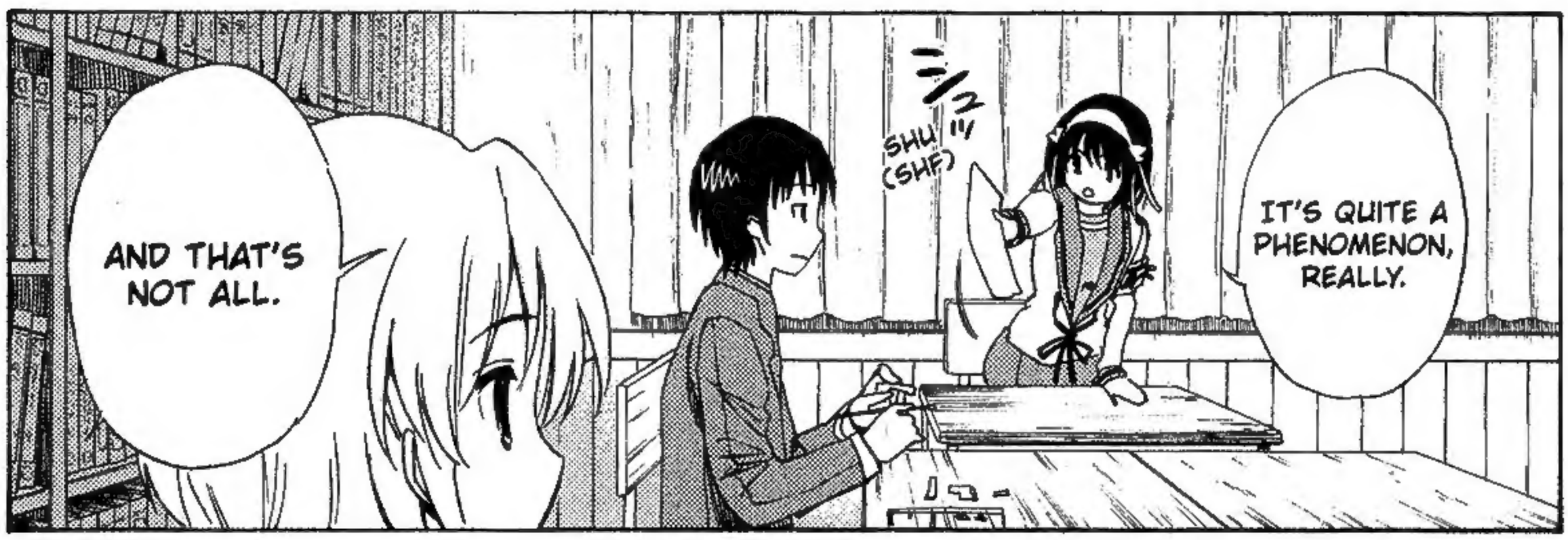
PEKKORI (BOW)
I'LL BE GOING HOME FOR TODAY, THEN!
SEE YOU TOMOR-ROW!
BYE!
TAN (TMP)
QUITE A CHEERFUL GIRL...
...WOULDN'T YOU SAY?
BATAN (SLAM)
MY, BUT SHE'S CHARM-ING.

There's nothing to worry about.
There won't be any problems with her.
DO YOU SERIOUSLY THINK THAT?
She seems like she'll be quite good at running errands.
You should be happy to have a cute new junior member.
I'M POSITIVE I'VE NEVER MET HER BEFORE.
I'VE GOT NO MEMORY OF HER WHATSOEVER.
WHERE IS THIS STRANGE SENSE OF DÉJÀ VU COMING FROM?
HONESTLY, I'M SURPRISED.
WHAT IS IT ABOUT A PETITE LITTLE FRESHMAN LIKE HER THAT'S SO DISTURBING...?
MAYBE IT'S NOT A PROBLEM WITH HER. MAYBE IT'S ALL IN MY HEAD.

YEAH...
BUT THIS REALLY ISN'T AN EVERY-DAY OCCUR-RENCE.
SO SHE WAS PLAN-NING NOT TO LET ANYONE IN ALL ALONG! I KNEW IT!

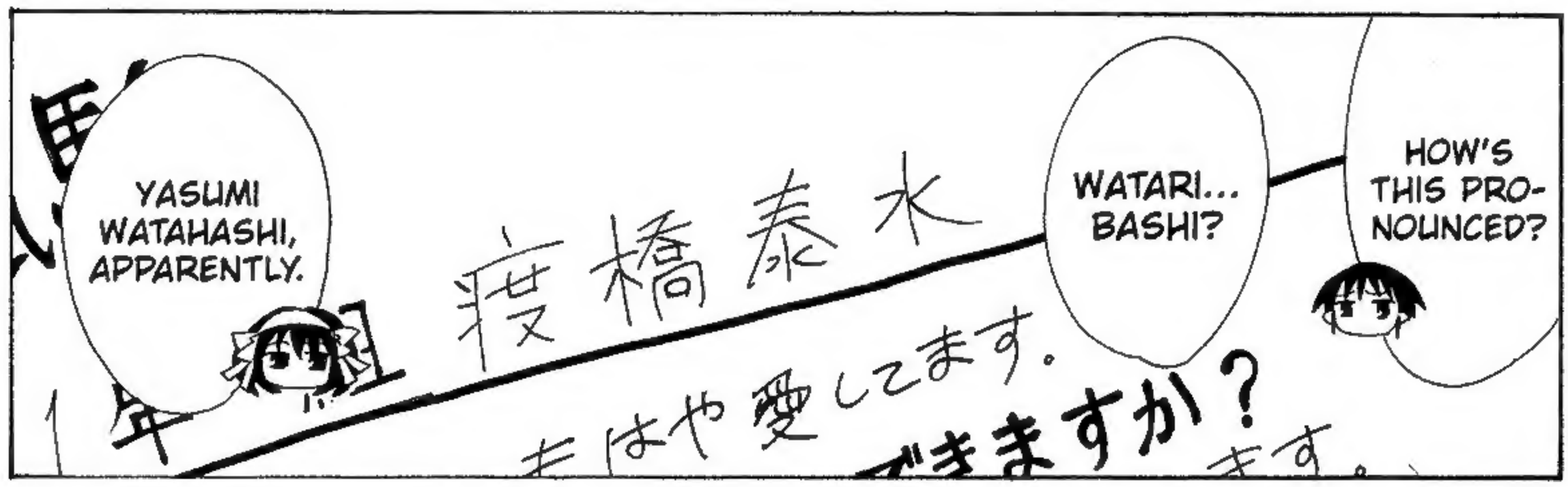
HMM...
I WASN'T EXPECT-ING ANY OF THEM TO MAKE IT.
THAT'S WHY I MADE THE FINAL TEST A MARATHON.


AND THAT'S NOT ALL.
SHU (SHF)
IT'S QUITE A PHENOMENON, REALLY.

LET'S SEE HERE...
GU CLEAN
GU
GU
INCINERATED? THAT'S AWFUL.
HERE.
THIS IS THE SURVEY I GAVE OUT BEFORE.
I INCINERATED THE REST OF THEM AND ONLY KEPT HERS.

DON
(DUM)
1. EXPLAIN THE REASONING BEHIND YOUR AMBITION TO JOIN THE SOS BRIGADE.
IT'S BEST TO STRIKE WHILE THE IRON IS HOT. I'M ALREADY IN LOVE WITH IT.
2. IF YOU ARE ADMITTED, IN WHAT WAY CAN YOU CONTRIBUTE?
ANYTHING I'M ALLOWED TO DO, I WILL TRY.
3. OF ALIENS, TIME TRAVELERS, SLIDERS, AND ESPERS, WHICH DO YOU THINK IS BEST?
I'D WANT TO TALK TO AN ALIEN THE MOST. I'D MOST WANT TO BE FRIENDS WITH A TIME TRAVELER. AN ESPER SEEMS LIKE THEY'D BE THE MOST PROFITABLE. A SLIDER SEEMS LIKE THEY WOULD OPEN UP THE MOST POSSIBILITIES.
4. WHY?
I WROTE MY REASONING AS PART OF MY PREVIOUS ANSWER. SORRY.
5. EXPLAIN ANY MYSTERIOUS PHENOMENA YOU HAVE EXPERIENCED.
I HAVEN'T EXPERIENCED ANY. SORRY.
6. WHAT'S YOUR FAVORITE PITHY PHRASE?
"UNPRECEDENTED AND UNBEATABLE."
7. IF YOU COULD DO ANYTHING, WHAT WOULD YOU DO?
BUILD A CITY ON MARS AND NAME IT AFTER MYSELF. LIKE "WASHINGTON, D.C." HEH.
8. FINAL QUESTION: EXPRESS YOUR ENTHUSIASM.
IF I ABSOLUTELY HAD TO, I'D PURPOSEFULLY MESS UP MY VISION AND WEAR GLASSES.
9. IF YOU CAN BRING ALONG ANYTHING REALLY INTERESTING, YOU GET EXTRA CREDIT. PLEASE TRY TO FIND SOMETHING.
UNDERSTOOD. I'LL BRING SOMETHING SOON.

SO THAT'S THE KIND OF GIRL SHE IS.



SHE'D EXECUTED A PERFECT INFILTRATION.

WHY WOULD SHE CALL ME, SPECIFICALLY, OUT OF THE BLUE?

POPO

PON!!

WATAHASHI YASUMI.

THE PHONE CALL FROM BEFORE.

IT'S ME.

M-E. ME.

...?

DOES THAT MEAN SOMETHING?

OR IS IT JUST A COINCIDENCE ...?

BUT KOIZUMI AND NAGATO HAVEN'T REACTED AT ALL.

I CAN'T AGREE WITH THAT VIEW, KYON.

"AND PLEASE TRY TO PRONOUNCE IT USING KATAKANA."

"PLEASE CALL ME 'YASUMI,' IF YOU WOULD."

NO, IT'S PROBABLY TOO SOON FOR THAT.

MAYBE THE LEAD IN OUR NEXT MOVIE...

ANYWAY, I WONDER WHAT WE SHOULD MAKE THE NEW RECRUIT DO?

ハルヒ
春日
はるひ

HIRAGANA, KATAKANA, AND KANJI ALL HAVE THEIR OWN MEANINGS AND INTONATIONS.

ASIDE: HARUHI (KATAKANA), HARUHI (KANJI), HARUHI (HIRAGANA)

I DON'T KNOW THIS GIRL.

AM I THE ONLY ONE WHO FEELS SOMETHING AMISS IN THIS STRANGE DISHARMONY?

WHAT IS YASUMI WATAHASHI'S SECRET?

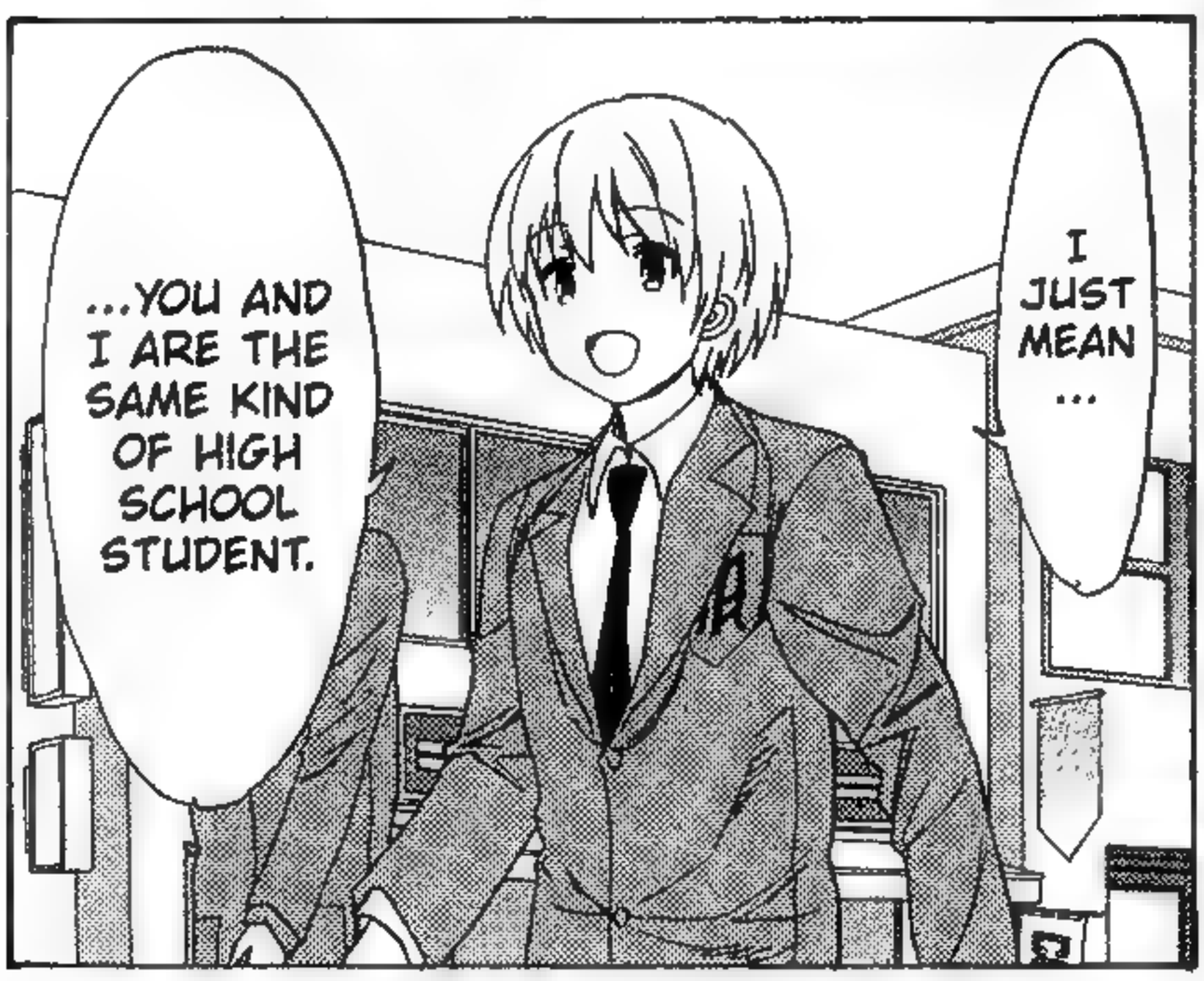
THE NEXT DAY, WEDNES-DAY.

...AS I DID THE ROUTINE WORK OF CLIMBING THE HILL TO SCHOOL.

A DAY CONTAIN-ING HARDLY ANYTHING, LEAVING ME FREE TO RUMINATE ...

KYON!

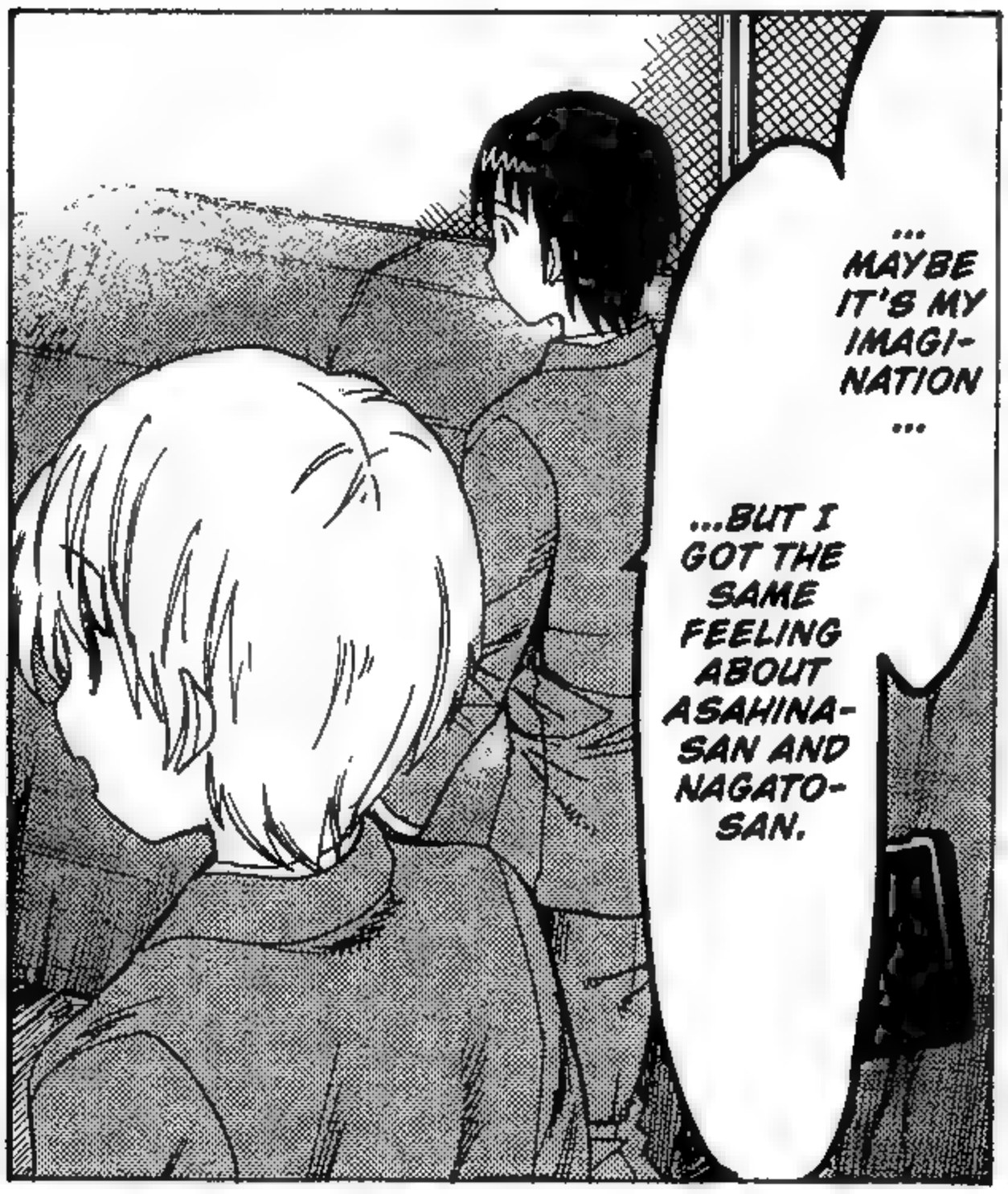
β—9



I FEEL BAD FOR TANIGUCHI SAYING THIS, BUT I KIND OF FELT LIKE I WANTED TO STAY AWAY FROM HER.
I STILL FEEL THAT WAY TOO.

BUT KUYOH-SAN'S DIF-FERENT.

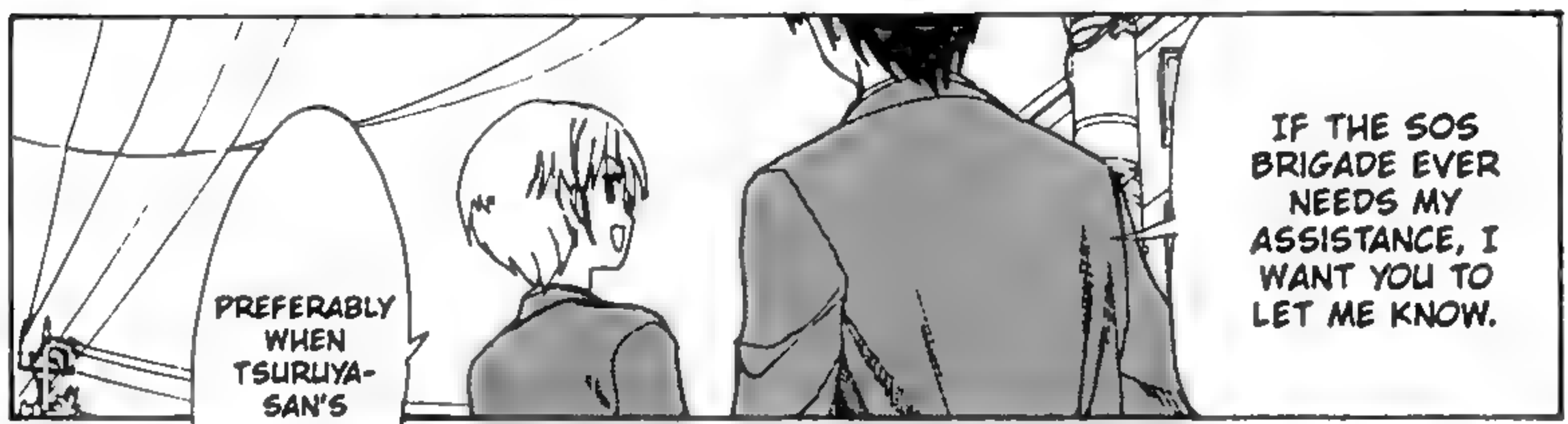
I CAN'T IMAGINE ANYBODY WHO WOULDN'T LOOK AT KUYOH AND FEEL SOMETHING SUSPICIOUS.
WELL, NOT REALLY.
VERY PERCEPTIVE.


...MAYBE IT'S MY IMAGI-NATION ...
...BUT I GOT THE SAME FEELING ABOUT ASAHINA-SAN AND NAGATO-SAN.

SHE'S JUST NOT A REGULAR HUMAN.
I DON'T KNOW WHETHER THAT'S GOOD OR BAD, THOUGH.
ALSO, TO BE HONEST...

I JUST WANTED TO SAY SOME-THING.
SORRY. ANYWAY, DON'T SWEAT IT.

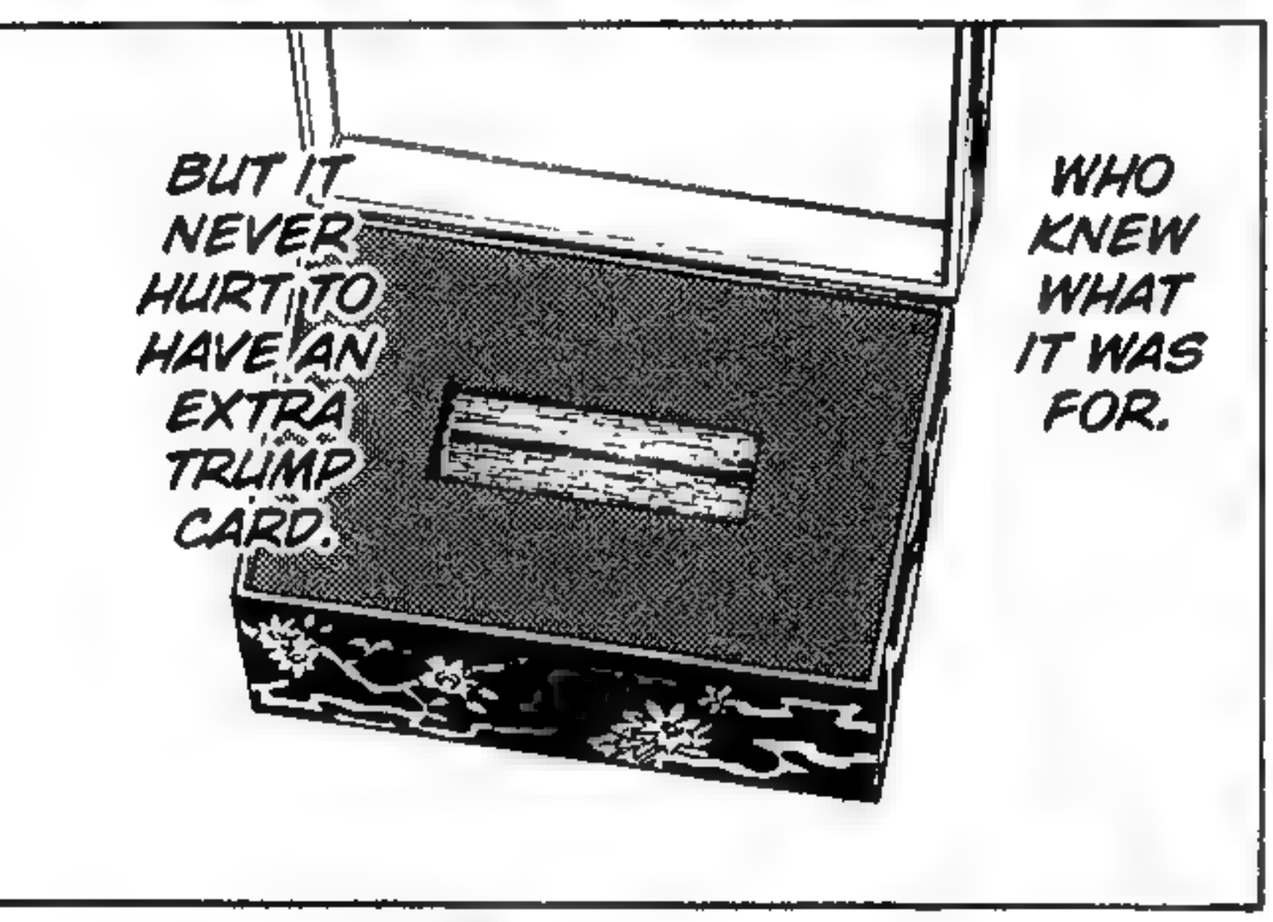
IT'S PROBABLY NOT WORTH WORRYING ABOUT, THOUGH.
SINCE TSURUYA-SAN HANGS OUT WITH YOU GUYS PRETTY REGULARLY AND ALL...


IF THE SOS BRIGADE EVER NEEDS MY ASSISTANCE, I WANT YOU TO LET ME KNOW.
PREFERABLY WHEN TSURUYA-SAN'S ALONG.

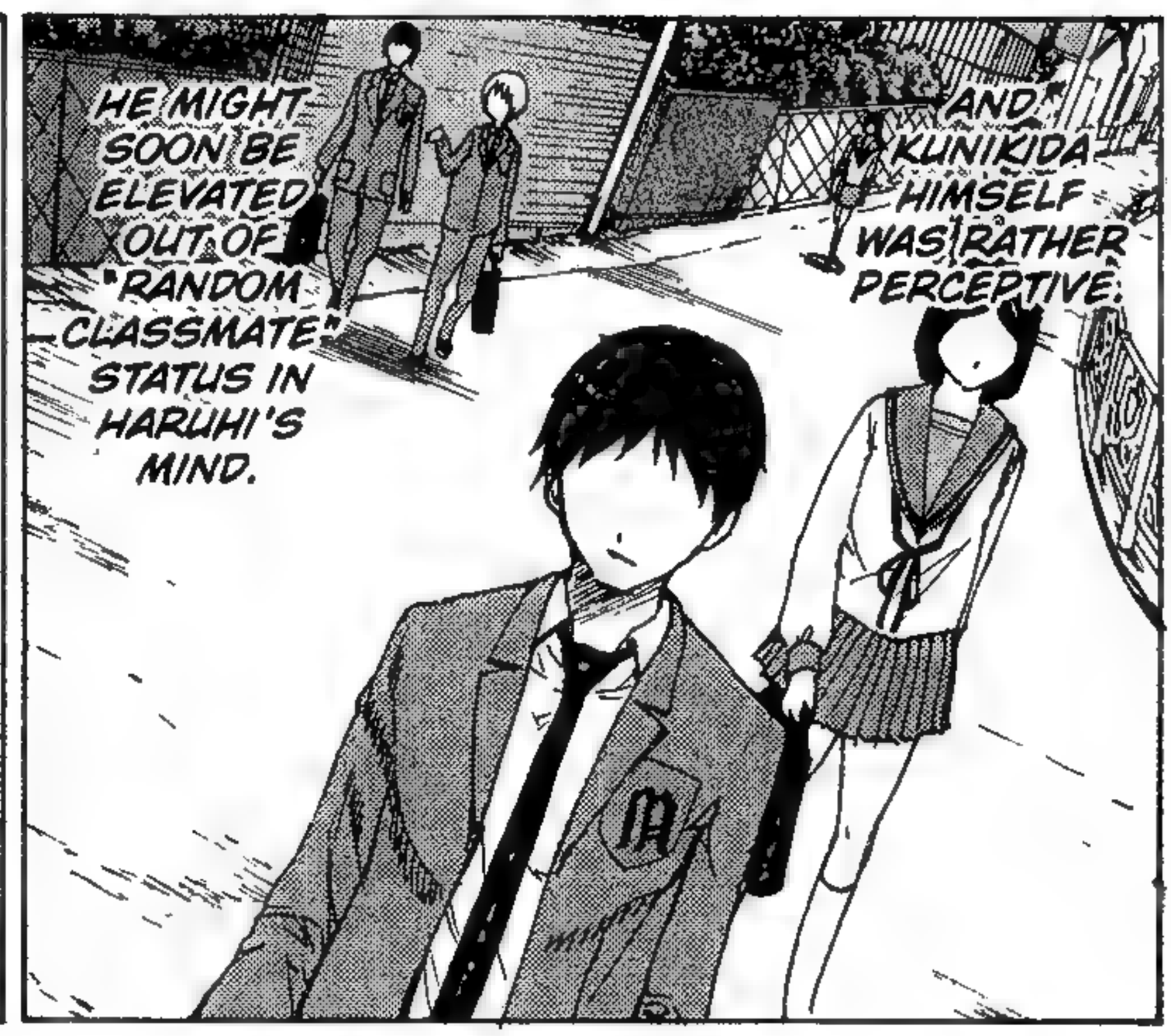
I CAN'T HELP NOTING THAT HIS MENTION OF TSURUYA-SAN WAS QUITE INSIGHTFUL.
DID HE JUST WANT TO PROVIDE ME WITH A LITTLE BIT OF ADVICE?

WE LEFT IT WITH HER, AND WOULD PROBABLY NEED IT EVENTUALLY.
THAT MYSTERIOUS OBJECT WE DUG OUT OF HER FAMILY'S MOUNTAIN...

TSURUYA-SAN...
SHE'S THE MOST RELIABLE NORMAL HUMAN THERE IS.


BUT IT NEVER HURT TO HAVE AN EXTRA TRUMP CARD.
WHO KNEW WHAT IT WAS FOR.

WHOSE DOING IS THIS?
THE INSTINCTS OF THE PEOPLE AROUND ME SEEM TO BE GETTING SHARPER.


HE MIGHT SOON BE ELEVATED OUT OF "RANDOM CLASSMATE" STATUS IN HARUHI'S MIND.
AND KUNIKIDA HIMSELF WAS RATHER PERCEPTIVE.

ARE YOU FAMILIAR WITH THE TERM GNOSTICISM?

PAN (SMACK)

I DON'T EVEN UNDERSTAND THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN COMMUNISM AND SOCIALISM.

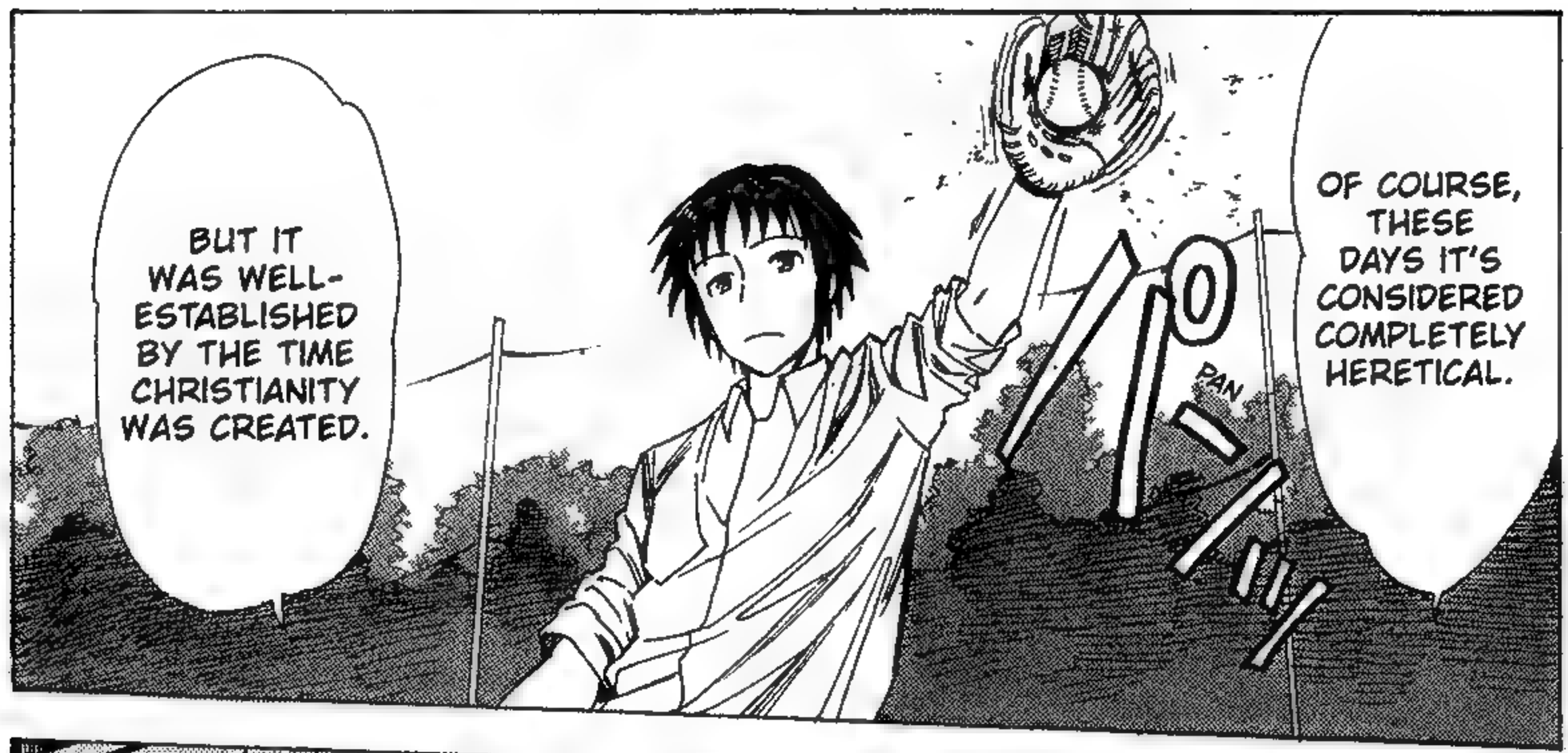
NOT AT ALL.

SHU (WSHH)

YOU CAN THINK OF IT AS A PHILOSOPHY, OR PERHAPS A RELIGION.

HA HA...

YOU PROBABLY SHOULD. JUST FOR FUTURE REFER-ENCE.


BUT IT WAS WELL-ESTABLISHED BY THE TIME CHRISTIANITY WAS CREATED.
OF COURSE, THESE DAYS IT'S CONSIDERED COMPLETELY HERETICAL.
PAN

WHY WAS THE WORLD SO FULL OF POINTLESS SUFFERING?

PEOPLE IN ANCIENT TIMES THOUGHT THUS:
THE WORLD IS FILLED WITH WICKED-NESS.

...THEN JUST LEAVE IT ALONE?
SHUDDUP!
SHU (SHWP)
WHY WOULD GOD HAVE CREATED SUCH A TERRIBLE WORLD ...
PAN

"THE WORLD WAS NOT CREATED BY A BENE-VOLENT CREATOR ...

HE PROBABLY REALIZED HIS GAME WAS ON THE PATH TO THE BAD ENDING, SO HE GAVE UP.

BUT COULDN'T WE THINK ABOUT IT THIS WAY?

QUITE POSSIBLY.

SHU (WHSHD

"....BUT INSTEAD, A MALICIOUS ONE."

IF THE BLUEPRINTS ARE BAD, THE BUILDING IS GOING TO BE BAD TOO.

PAN (SMACK)

!!

IT AMOUNTS TO THE SAME THING, DOESN'T IT?

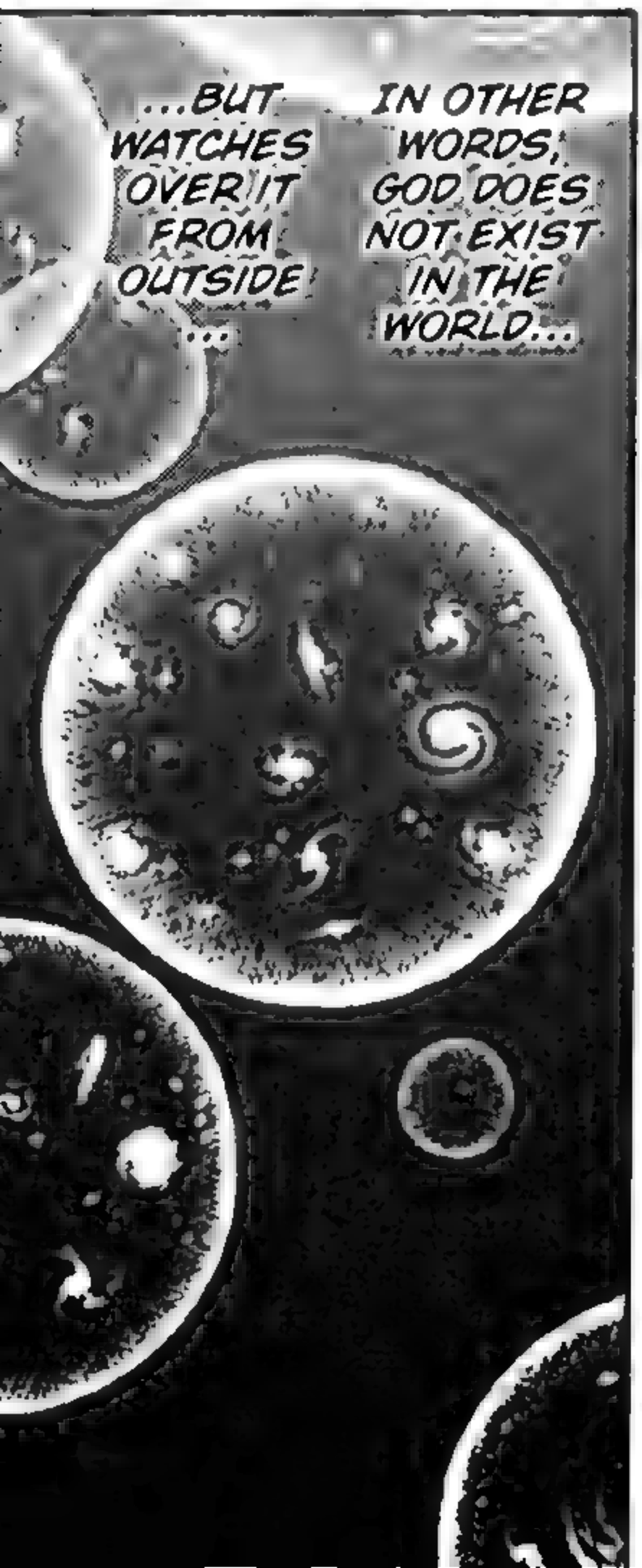
IF THE WORLD WERE ENTIRELY EVIL WITHOUT ANY GOOD ANYWHERE, WE WOULDN'T EVEN BE ABLE TO CONCEIVE OF GOODNESS.

THE FACT THAT WE CAN RECOGNIZE EVIL FOR WHAT IT IS PROVES THAT WE CAN RESIST IT WITH GOOD.

WHY, YOU ASK?

HOWEVER, HUMANS ARE NOT ENTIRELY EVIL.

IT IS HARDLY SURPRISING THAT GOD OVERLOOKS EVIL ACTS... BECAUSE GOD HIMSELF IS EVIL.



AND BECAUSE THIS TRADITION HOLDS THE CREATOR OF THE WORLD TO BE A FAKE, IT'S BEEN UNDER-STANDABLY SUPPRESSED.

KYU (SQUEAK)

INDEED.

WELL, THEY'D HAVE TO THINK THAT. OTHERWISE WHAT WOULD BE THE POINT?

HUMAN PSYCHOLOGY HAS NOT CHANGED APPRECIABLY SINCE ANCIENT TIMES.

BASHA

BASHA

BASHA SPLASH

INCIDEN-TALLY...

...GNOSTICISM IS GENERALLY IN ACCORD WITH MODERN THINKING.

I FEEL LIKE YOU'RE MAKING SOME LEAPS IN LOGIC THERE...

BASHA

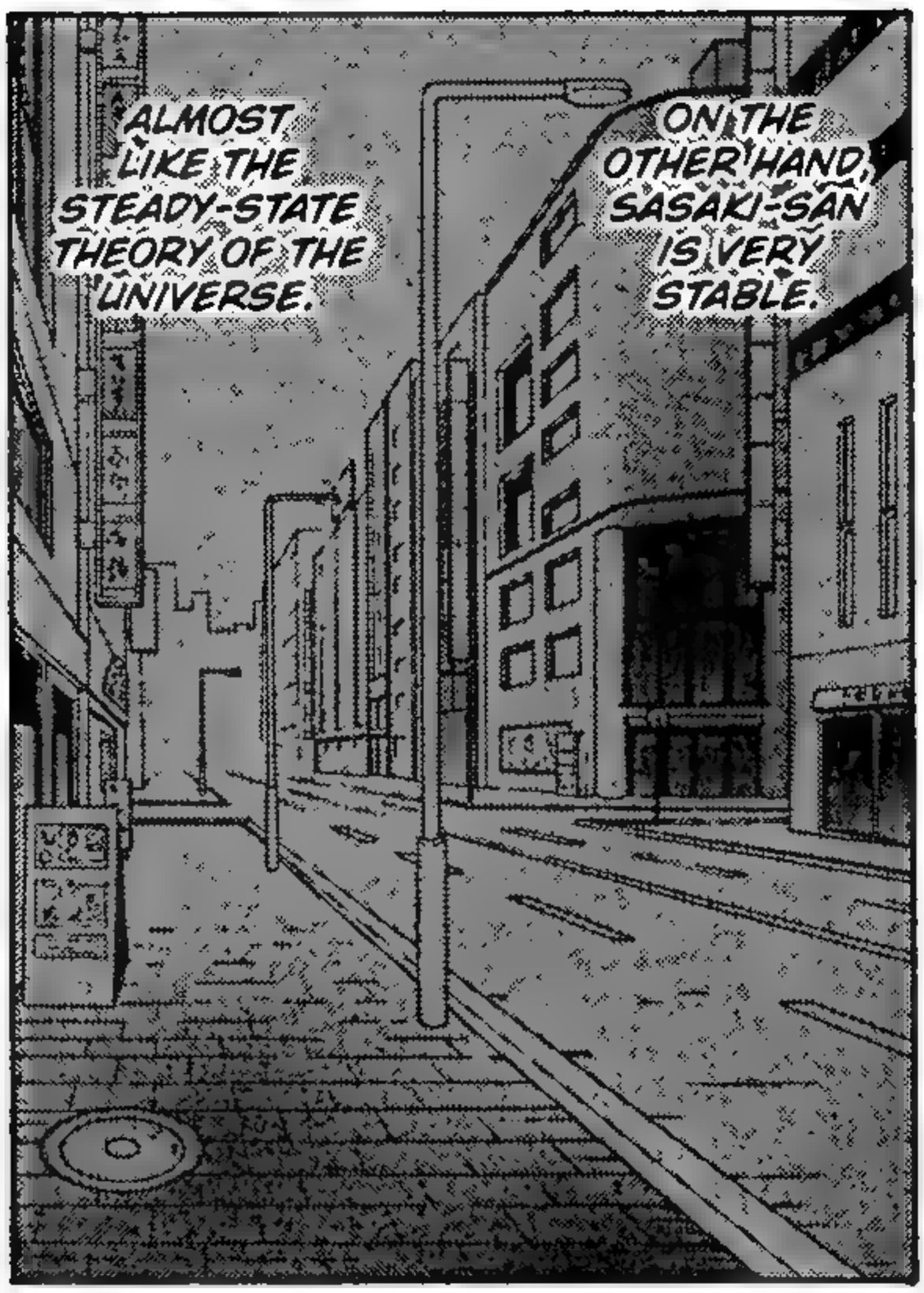
IT'S BEEN A CONDITION THROUGH-OUT HUMAN HISTORY.

WE'VE REACHED A DEAD END IN OUR EVOLU-TION.

NO MATTER HOW MUCH OUR TECHNOLOGY IMPROVES, THE BIOLOGICAL LIMITS ON OUR INTELLIGENCE WILL NOT CHANGE.

BASHA

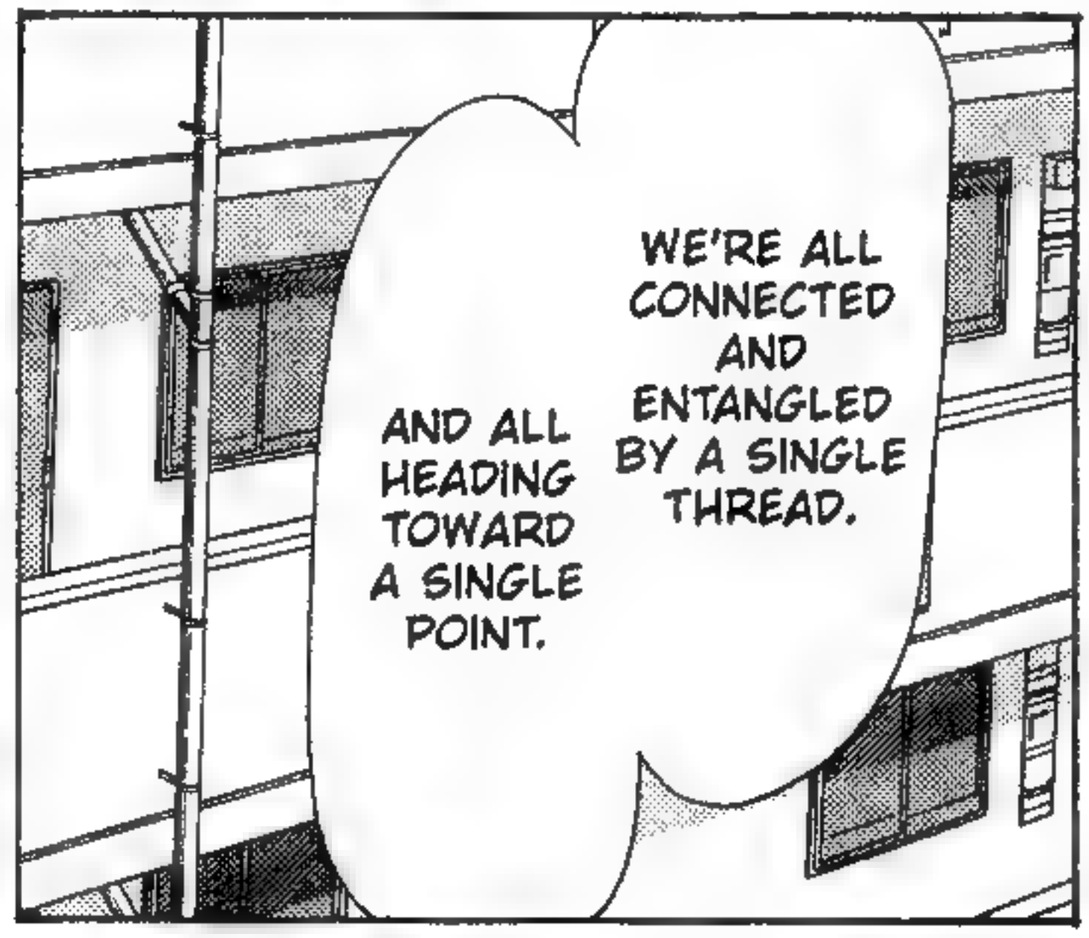
TACHIBANA-SAN'S FACTION REGARDS SUZUMIYA AS A FALSE GOD.
NOW, WITH THAT AS OUR CONTEXT ...
...WHICH NECESSARILY PREVENTS HER FROM BEING THE TRUE GOD.
BUT SHE LACKS SELF-AWARENESS ...
SHE MAY WELL BE THE CREATOR OF THIS WORLD.
ALTHOUGH IT'S POSSIBLE THEY ONLY THINK THEY'VE FOUND HER.
AND NOW THEY'VE FOUND SOMEONE THEY CAN BELIEVE IS THE TRUE GOD.


ALMOST LIKE THE STEADY-STATE THEORY OF THE UNIVERSE.
ON THE OTHER HAND, SASAKI-SAN IS VERY STABLE.

FOR A CREATOR, SHE'S NOT VERY INTERESTED IN CREATING.
SUZUMIYA-SAN'S CLOSED SPACE IS FILLED WITH THE WILL TO DESTROY.

THAT'S HARD TO KNOW.
I WOULD RATHER LEAVE THE DECISION UP TO SOMEONE WHO KNOWS BOTH OF THEM EQUALLY WELL.
NOW THEN, SHALL WE ADJOURN?

SHE CONSISTENTLY CREATES A FIXED AMOUNT OF CLOSED SPACE AND DOESN'T ALLOW IT TO RUN RAMPANT.
SO WHICH IS THE REAL ONE?



AND I BELIEVE THE NEXT TIME WILL BE THE SAME.

SO FAR YOUR ACTIONS HAVE ALL BEEN RIGHT.

YOU NEED ONLY ACT ACCORDING TO YOUR OWN WILL.

AND WHEN THAT TIME COMES, I'M SURE YOU'LL UNDERSTAND IMMEDIATELY.

!
TO (TMP)
HEY, WHOSE LOAFERS ARE...

TA (TAP)
WEL-COME HOME!

I'M HOME.

DID YOU KNOW ...?
I READ IT IN AN ESSAY SOME-WHERE ...
HEY.
CAT PERSON-ALITIES ARE HIT-OR-MISS...
...COM-PLETELY IRRESPEC-TIVE OF LINEAGE OR BREED.

HEY.
NICE CAT.

HA HA...

SO FAR AS I CAN TELL, YOU REALLY HIT ON A GREAT CAT WITH SHAMISEN HERE.

HE'S GOT A CERTAIN CLEVERNESS ABOUT HIM, AND A CERTAIN WILDNESS.

なでり NADERI (PET)

IT MAKES YOU WONDER IF HE UNDERSTANDS HUMANS BETTER THAN EVEN A CHILD WOULD.

YOU'RE NOT JUST LUCKY FOR OWNING A MALE CALICO.

CATS THINK OF HUMANS AS JUST BEING SLIGHTLY LARGER CATS.

THAT'S WHY THEY DON'T SHOW US ANY DEF-ERENCE.

とっ TO

とっ TO

WAAH!

YOU'VE GOT IT BACK-WARDS, KYON.

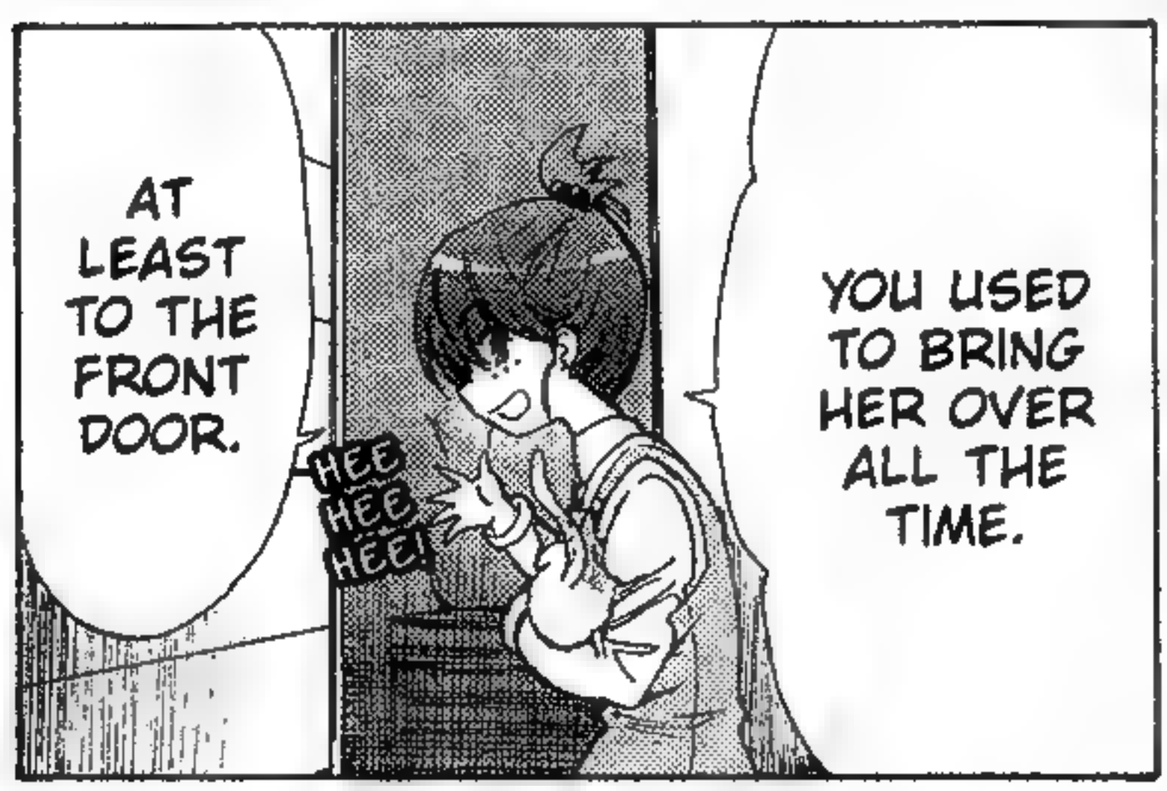
SHU (WSH)

HE DOESN'T EVEN THINK OF HIMSELF AS A CAT.

SOME-TIMES HE ACTS LIKE HE THINKS HE'S SUPERIOR TO HUMANS.

SHOO!
OKAY, OUT.
HMPH.
AWW!
DOGS PROBABLY THINK OF THEMSELVES AS BEING THE SAME SPECIES AS HUMANS.
THAT'S WHY THEY'RE FAITHFUL TO THEIR MASTERS.

FU FU.
WAAH!
THEY'RE DIFFERENT FROM DOGS IN THAT WAY.
WE DON'T EVEN KNOW HOW TO CATCH OUR OWN FOOD.
THEY JUST THINK OF US AS BEING KIND OF CLUMSY.


AT LEAST TO THE FRONT DOOR.
HEE HEE HEE!
YOU USED TO BRING HER OVER ALL THE TIME.

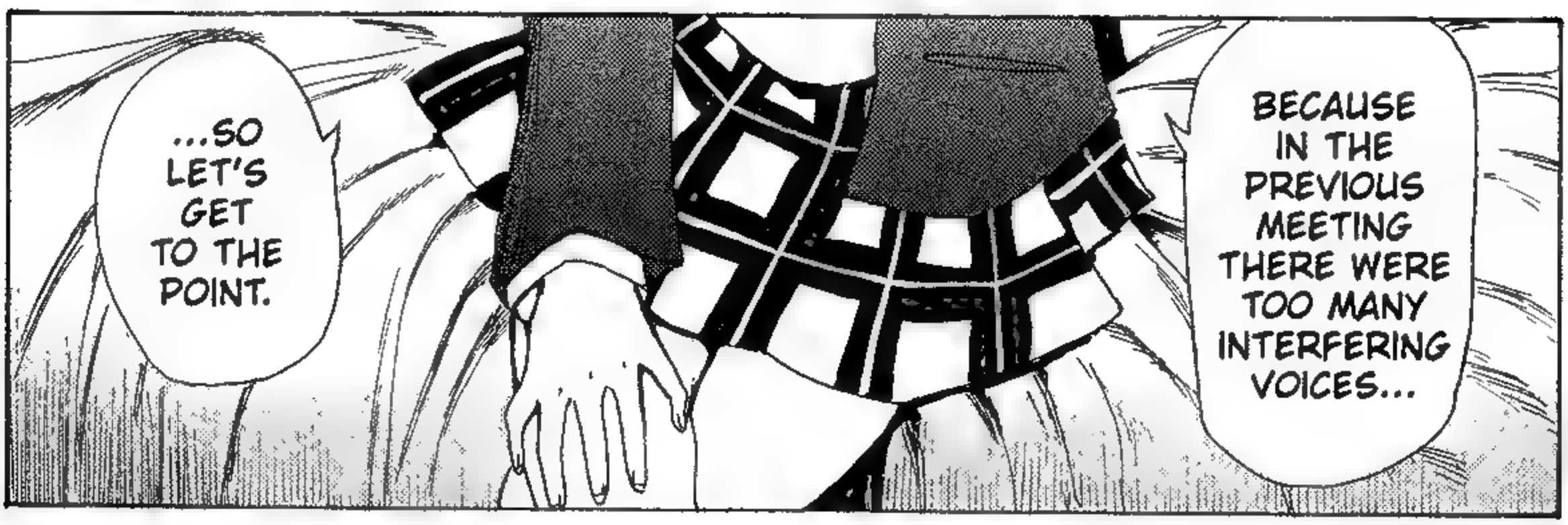
YOU MEANIE!
BUT I'VE BEEN HAVING FUN!

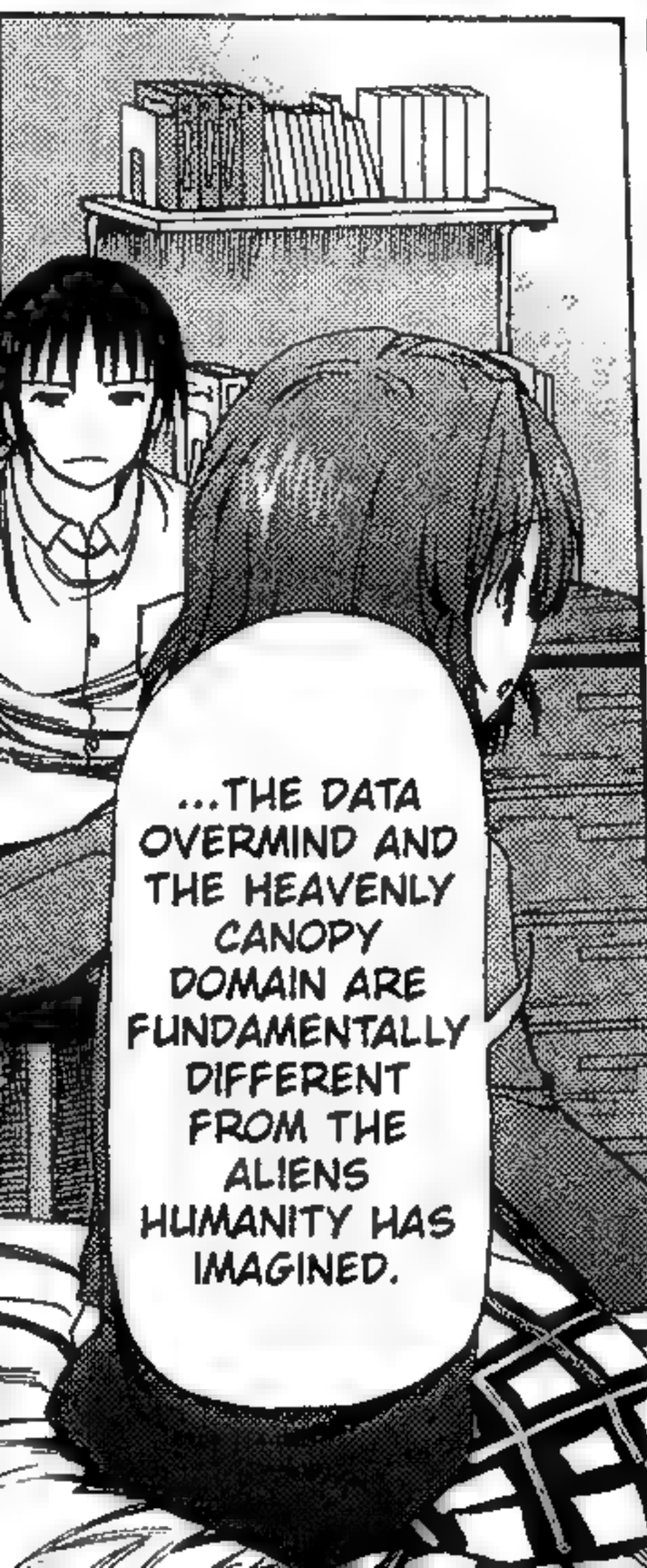
I'M SURE IT'S BECAUSE SHE'S HAD A GOOD HOME.
OR PERHAPS I SHOULD SAY SHE'S A LOVELY GIRL.
SHE'S DEFINITELY YOUR SISTER, KYON.

FU FU FU!
I'M HAPPY YOU REMEMBER.
KIDS SURE DO GROW UP QUICKLY.

I WAS THINKING YOU MUST BE GETTING PRETTY CLOSE TO YOUR LIMIT.
OH, THIS AND THAT.

SO.
WHAT IS IT YOU CAME TO TALK TO ME ABOUT?

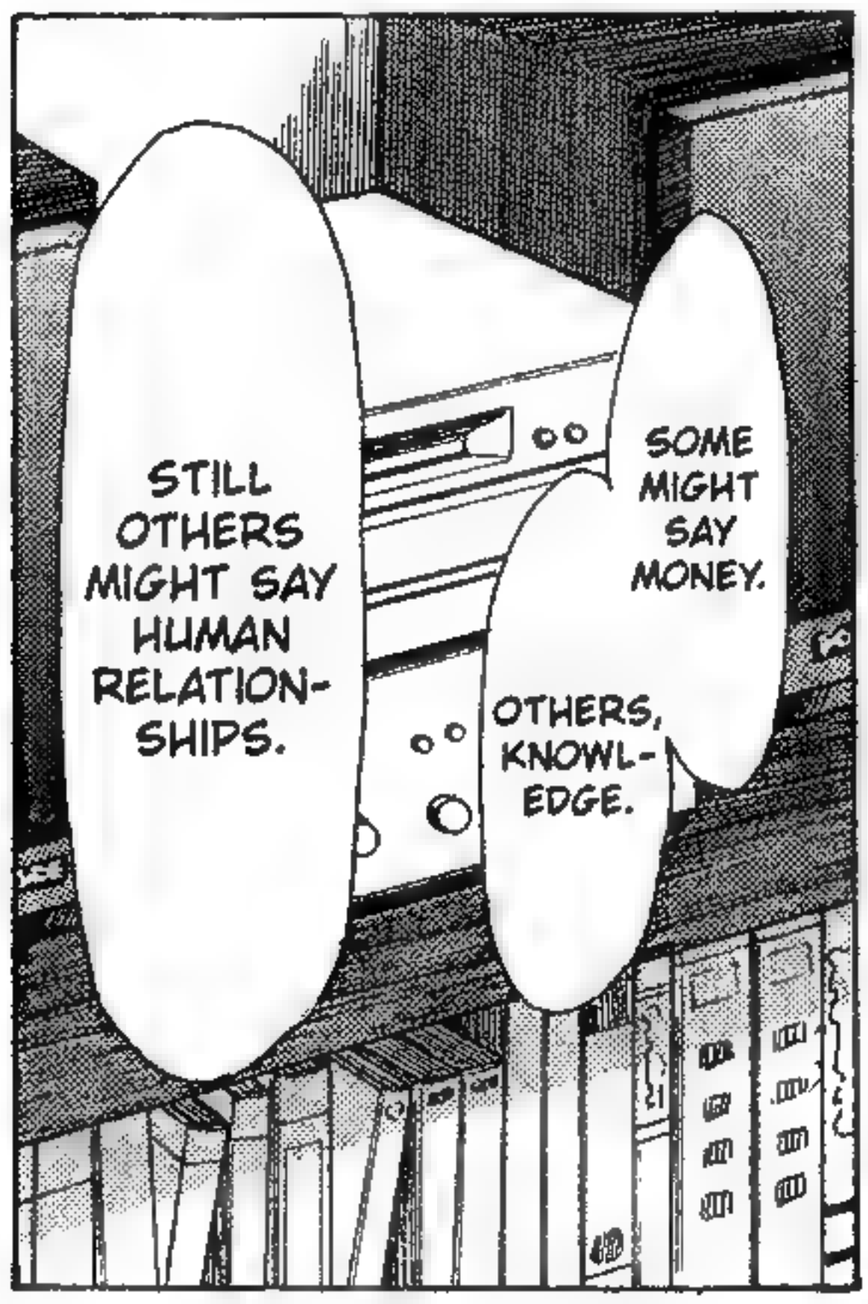

...SO LET'S GET TO THE POINT.
BECAUSE IN THE PREVIOUS MEETING THERE WERE TOO MANY INTERFERING VOICES...

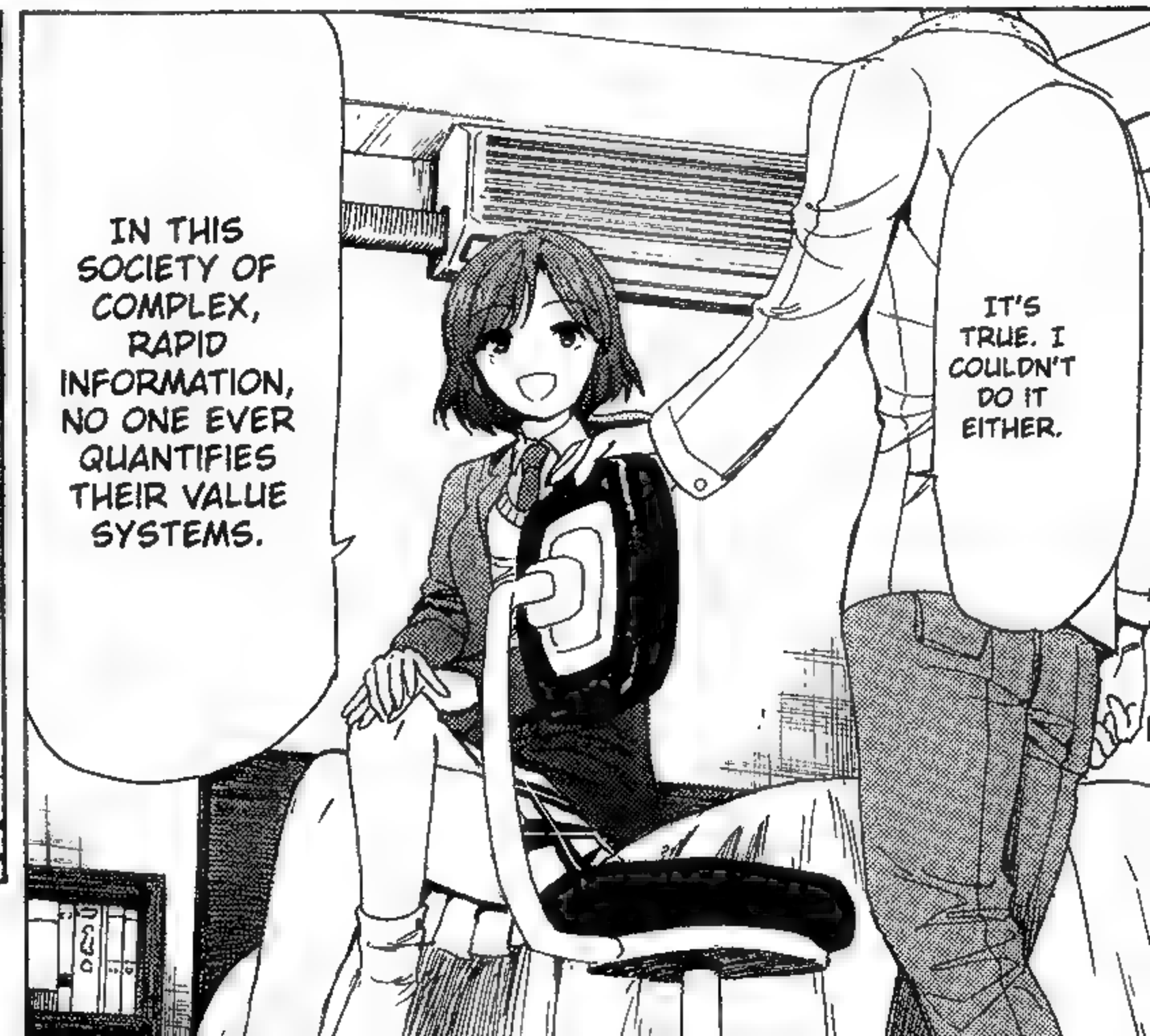

...THE DATA OVERMIND AND THE HEAVENLY CANOPY DOMAIN ARE FUNDAMENTALLY DIFFERENT FROM THE ALIENS HUMANITY HAS IMAGINED.

BUT...
EVER SINCE I WAS A KID...
...I'VE IMAGINED WHAT EXTRATER-RESTRIAL LIFE WOULD LOOK LIKE, IF IT EXISTED.

FIRST, I'LL TELL WHAT I'VE LEARNED ABOUT KUYOH SUOH-SAN.

WHAT I THINK IS THAT THEY ARE UNABLE TO UNDERSTAND HUMAN REASONING AND VALUES.





HERE AN INEVITABLE QUESTION ARISES.
THEIR ANSWERS WERE MUCH MORE LIMITED.
BUT I DON'T THINK PEOPLE IN THE PAST WOULD'VE HAD TO THINK SO MUCH ABOUT THAT QUESTION.

PI (FLICK)
THAT'S EXACTLY RIGHT, KYON.
DIVERSI-FICATION MAKES CHOICE DIFFICULT.

WHEN THERE ARE TOO MANY OPTIONS, PEOPLE DON'T KNOW WHICH CHOICE TO TAKE...?

FAR FROM DIVERSI-FICATION, THIS LEADS TO CONCEN-TRATION AND HOMOG-ENIZATION.
BUT THAT'S GETTING IT EXACTLY BACK-WARDS.
WHEN THEY HAVE TO CHOOSE WITHOUT ANY INFORMATION, PEOPLE CHOOSE ACCORDING TO THE MAJORITY.

AND THAT HARUHI SUZUMIYA-SAN IS THE KEY.

...BUT THEY'VE REALIZED THERE'S ANOTHER SIDE.

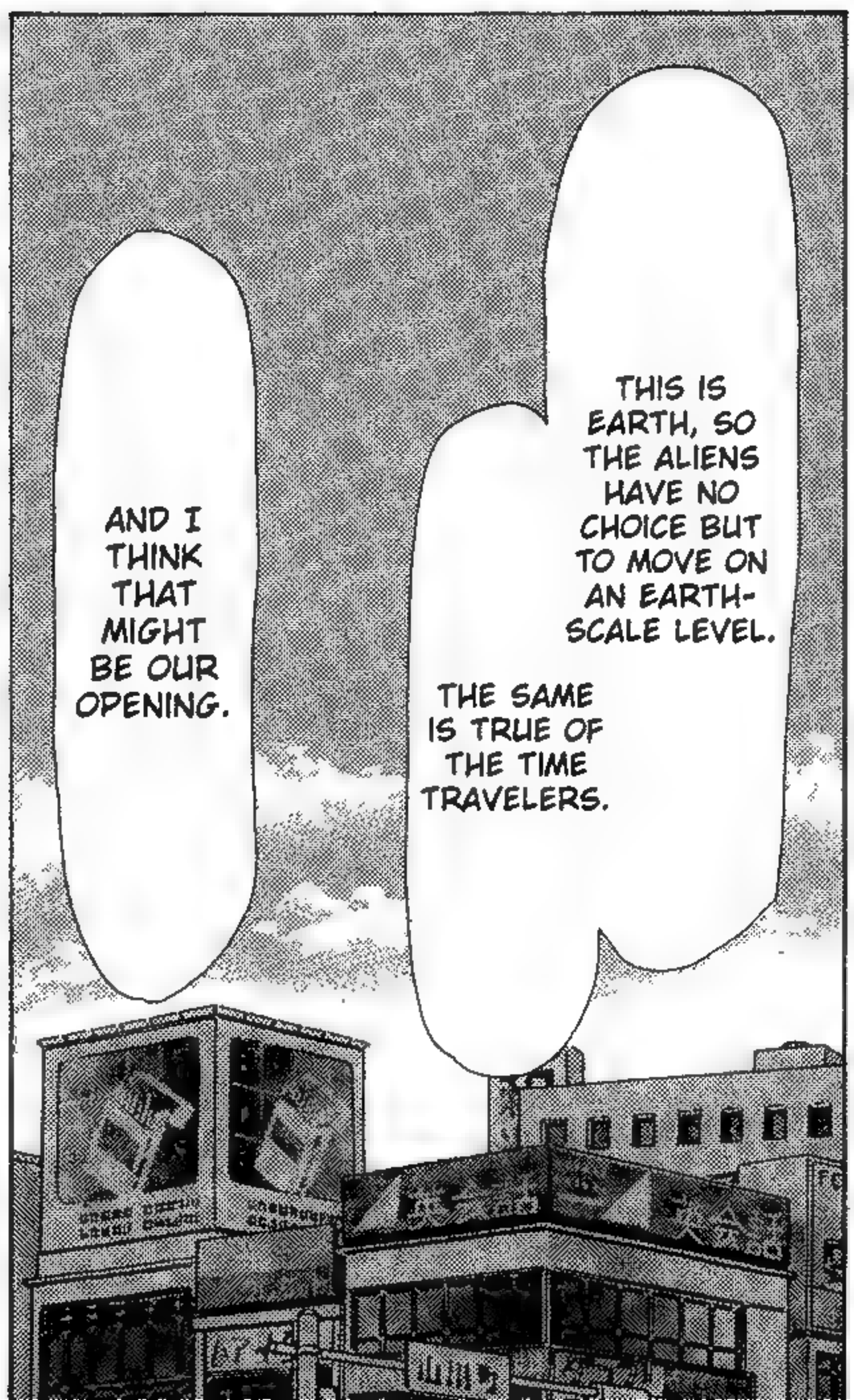
SEEMS LIKE THE ALIENS HAVE PRIVILEGED THE EVOLUTION OF HOMOGENEITY...

THIS STORY BELONGS TO YOU AND ME.
LISTEN, KYON.
ADULTS WOULD ONLY GET IN OUR WAY WITH ANALYSIS, INTERPRETATIONS, AND POINTLESS MEETINGS.

AND THAT'S THE WEAKNESS WE CAN USE.
THAT'S NO PROBLEM AT ALL.
YOU SEE, THESE MATTERS REVOLVE AROUND HARUHI SUZUMIYA.

AND ABOUT THAT TIME TRAVELER ...

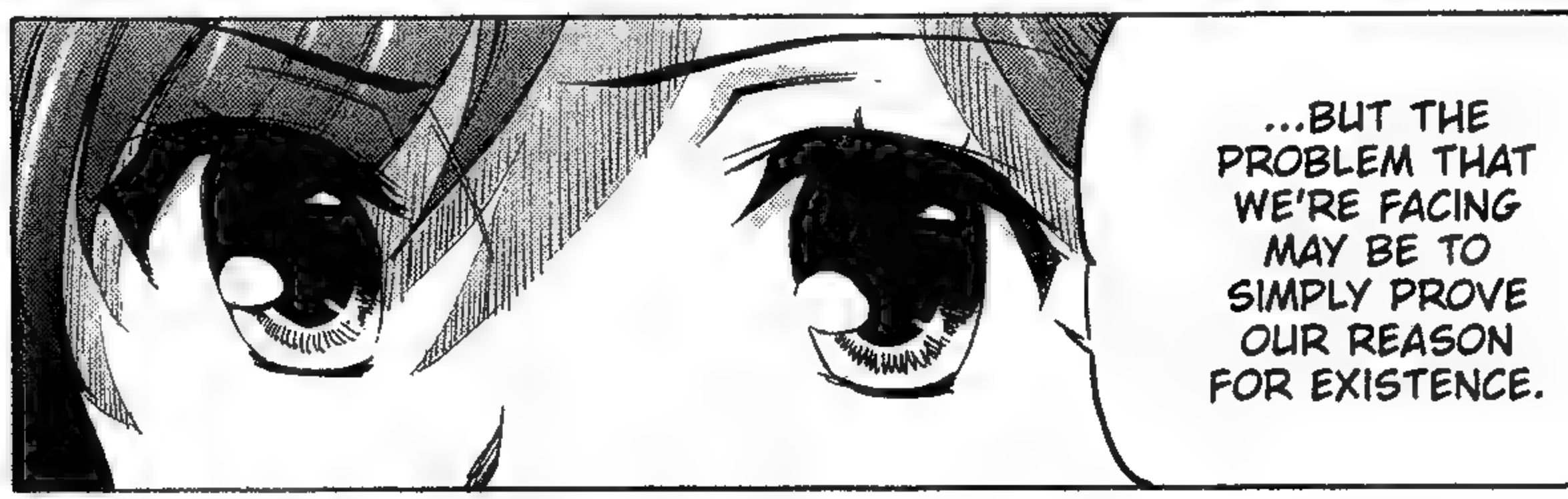
THAT GUY...
HE'S BEEN VERY CLEAR ABOUT HIS WILLINGNESS TO PURSUE HIS GOALS.
I GET THE SENSE HE WANTS TO WRAP THINGS UP PRETTY QUICKLY.


AND I THINK THAT MIGHT BE OUR OPENING.
THIS IS EARTH, SO THE ALIENS HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO MOVE ON AN EARTH-SCALE LEVEL.
THE SAME IS TRUE OF THE TIME TRAVELERS.

OH, BROTHER...
BUT YOU'D PREFER THAT YOURSELF, WOULDN'T YOU?
YOU NEED TO BRING DOWN NAGATO-SAN'S FEVER AND ALL.

THIS IS A TOTAL GUESS ON MY PART...

HE'LL TAKE ACTION AS SOON AS TOMORROW.


...BUT THE PROBLEM THAT WE'RE FACING MAY BE TO SIMPLY PROVE OUR REASON FOR EXISTENCE.

...BECAUSE THEY'RE TRYING TO MAKE THEIR RAISON D'ÊTRE INTO REALITY.
IT'S POSSIBLE THAT EVERYONE IS WORKING SO HARD...

THEY'RE ALL TAKING ACTION WITH THAT SIMPLE GOAL IN MIND.
THEY HAVE BUT A SINGLE WISH.
A SINGLE PLAINTIVE HOPE: "DON'T FORGET ABOUT US."
EACH OF THEM EXIST ON THEIR OWN...
...AND TRY TO GET ANOTHER BEING TO ACKNOWLEDGE THEIR EXISTENCE.

"I AM HERE."

I FEEL LIKE I SHOULD APOLOGIZE FOR GETTING YOU WRAPPED UP IN ALL OF THIS...

SO I DON'T THINK I'M GOING TO PAY TOO MUCH ATTENTION TO THAT.

...BUT I'VE HARDLY EVER SEEN AN EXPRESSION ON YOUR FACE THAT WASN'T A SMILE.

WHEN I TALK WITH YOU, I ALWAYS WIND UP WITH MY FACE STUCK IN A SMILE.

HOW'D IT GO?

I THOUGHT I'D TRY BEING A LITTLE MORE SERIOUS FOR ONCE.

SO, ANYWAY ...

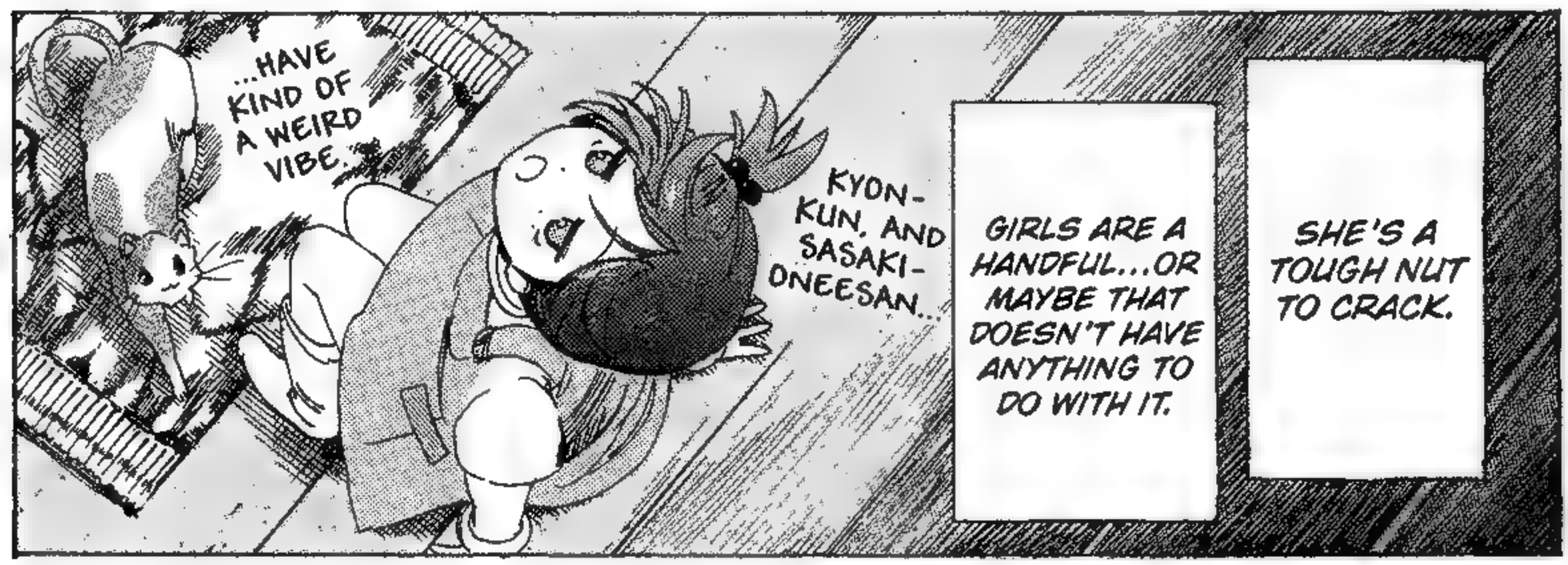
...WHAT DID YOU COME HERE TO SAY?

THAT'S THE SPIRIT.

GOOD FOR YOU, KYON.

THAT'S ALL. WHY DO YOU ASK?

I WANTED TO TALK TO YOU IN PERSON.



THE SURPRISE OF HARUHI SUZUMIYA VII : END

The Melancholy of Haruhi Suzumiya

THE PROBLEM THAT WE'RE FACING MAY BE JUST SHOWING OUR REASON FOR EXISTENCE.

IT'S A SIMPLE AND SINCERE MESSAGE.

AT THE VERY LEAST, WE WON'T FORGET ABOUT FUJIWARA-KUN OR KUYOH-SAN.

β—9

SO WHAT'S YOUR REASON FOR EXISTING?

SASAKI ...

QUESTIONS LIKE WHY ARE WE BORN, WHY DO WE LIVE...
OR WERE YOU HOPING FOR A LESS EVOLUTIONARY ANSWER?
...THESE ARE NO MORE THAN ZEN RIDDLES.
YOU'RE JUST GOING TO UP AND ASK? HEH.
OBVIOUSLY IT'S TO PASS ON MY GENES, OF COURSE.
"TO THINK."
GIVEN THAT, MY ANSWER WOULD BE...
AND...
"TO GO ON THINKING."

IF YOU'RE GOING TO LEAVE BEHIND SOMETHING THAT WILL ENDURE IN THIS WORLD ...

... OTHER THAN YOUR GENES ...

THAT'S AN EXCELLENT QUESTION, KYON.

AND WHAT'S AT THE END OF ALL THAT THINKING?

TO STOP THINKING IS THE SAME AS DYING.

GREAT WORKS OF CULTURAL ART...

ENTIRELY NEW TECHNOLOGIES AND SCIENCES ...

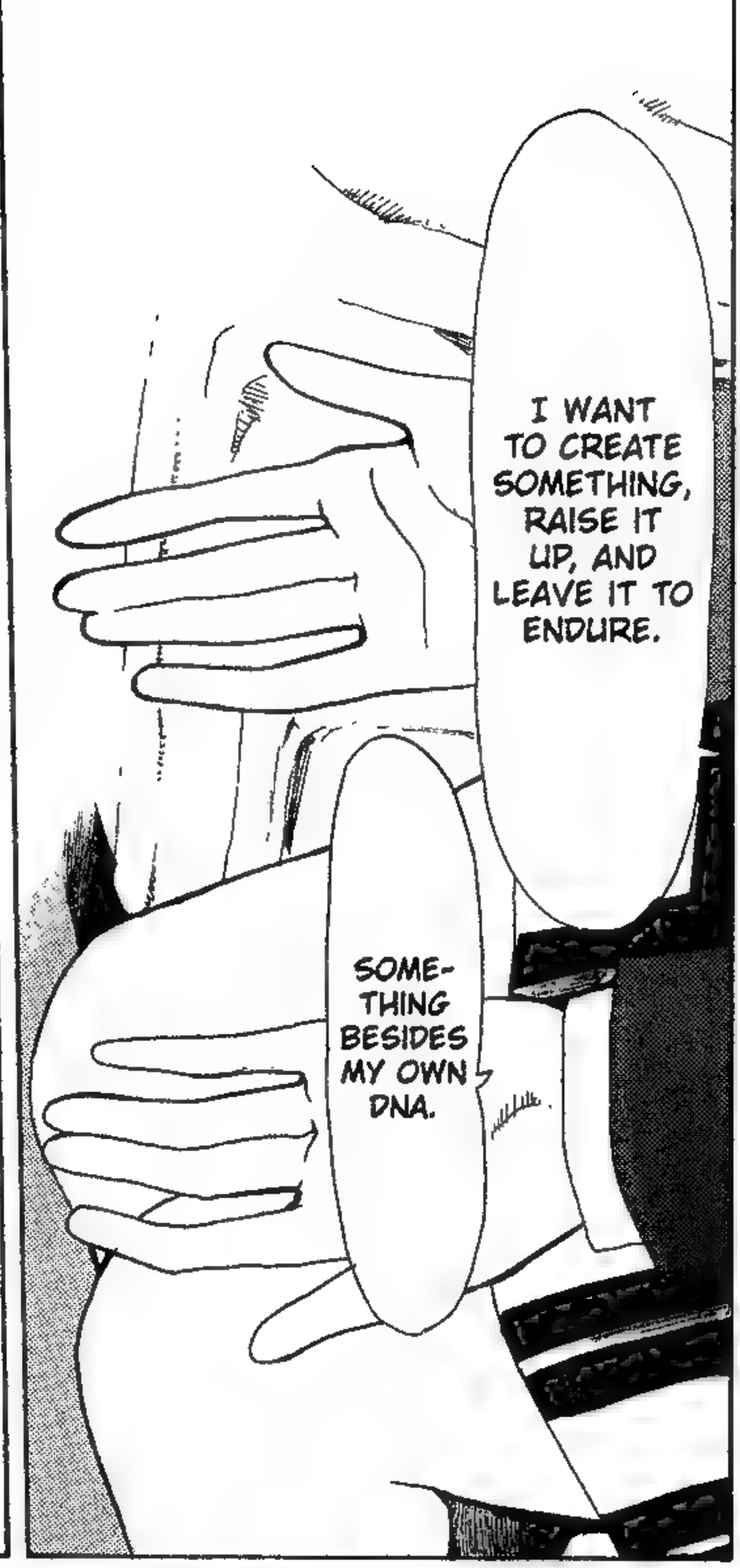
...TO EPOCH-MAKING TOOLS...

FROM HUGE, FUTILE MONUMENTS...

SINCE THE BEGINNING OF HISTORY, WE HUMANS HAVE LEFT BEHIND ALL KINDS OF THINGS.

AND WITHOUT ANY HELP FROM ALIENS OR TIME TRAVELERS.

MY THOUGHTS ARE MINE ALONE.
AND I DON'T WANT ANY INTER-FERENCE.
FU FU!

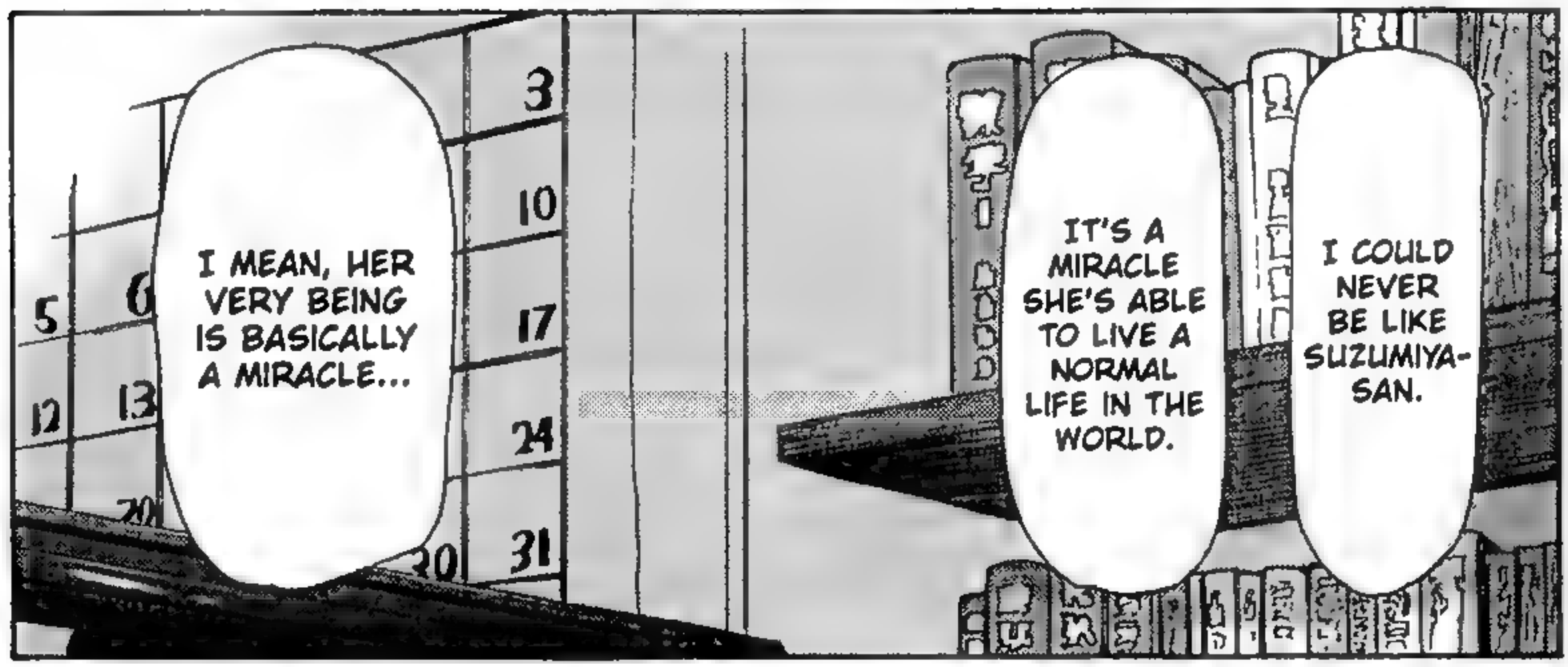

I WANT TO CREATE SOMETHING, RAISE IT UP, AND LEAVE IT TO ENDURE.
SOME-THING BESIDES MY OWN DNA.

I'M PRETTY SURE I'VE NEVER HEARD SASAKI SPEAK SO PASSION-ATELY ABOUT SOME-THING.
OR SO HON-ESTLY.

ALTHOUGH, I DO FEEL LIKE...
...I COULD BECOME GOOD FRIENDS WITH TACHIBANA-SAN.
TO (TMP)

FU FU FU ...
C'MON, KYON, NOT YOU TOO.
I DOUBT I COULD HANDLE IT.

SASAKI.
IF YOU HAD POWER LIKE HARUHI HAS...
...YOU COULD MAKE ALL OF THIS COME TRUE.


I MEAN, HER VERY BEING IS BASICALLY A MIRACLE...
IT'S A MIRACLE SHE'S ABLE TO LIVE A NORMAL LIFE IN THE WORLD.
I COULD NEVER BE LIKE SUZUMIYA-SAN.

SHA (FWISH)
THEN THERE'S YOU, OBJECT OF THE AFFINITY OF TWO DEMIGODS, HER AND ME.
IT'S NOT LIKE YOU'RE POWERLESS.

SHU (SHF)
SUZUMIYA-SAN IS SUPPOSED TO BE SOMETHING LIKE A GOD.
AND APPARENTLY PEOPLE THINK THE SAME OF ME TOO.

THAT'S RIGHT...

IF THERE'S SOMETHING TO BE DONE, YOU'LL BE THE ONE TO DO IT.

YOU'LL PULL BACK THE CURTAIN ON THE NEW STAGE.

SO HAVE A LITTLE SELF-CONFIDENCE, EH, KYON?

YOU WILL END UP RESOLVING THIS MATTER.

YOU HAVE ALL THE MASTER KEYS.

TON (THUMP)
AH, ACTU-ALLY ...
...THERE WAS ANOTHER REASON I CAME TODAY...
TO (TMP)
YEAH, SEE YOU.
BYE BYE!
TO TO TO TO
OH...
NO NEED TO SEE ME OFF.
WELL, I SHOULD BE GOING.
?
BYE BYE!
I SHOULDN'T TAKE ASKING YOU ABOUT THIS STUFF FOR GRANTED.
...BUT NEVER MIND.
IN THE END, IT'S MY OWN PROB-LEM.

AND HE ASKED THIS:

EVEN AS MY RESOLVE BURNED HOT, THERE WAS A COOLER, MORE LOGICAL VERSION OF ME THERE TOO.

TO GET NAGATO BACK TO HER NORMAL SELF.

MIGHT AS WELL DO IT.

...OR SOME-THING.
IT WAS NONE OTHER THAN— HAD TO BE— HER.
WASN'T THERE SOMEONE BESIDES ME WHO COULD TAKE UP THE ROLE OF THE TRANSCENDENT HERO?
PAA (BEAM)
I'VE BEEN WAITING FOR THIS, SENPAI!
I'M SO EXCITED TO BE HERE!
AS OF TODAY, I'M A MEMBER OF THE SOS BRIGADE!
α—10

I'M SURE YOU ALL KNOW, BUT I'LL INTRO-DUCE HER AGAIN.
YASUMI WATAHASHI-CHAN...
...HAVING PASSED A SERIES OF FAIR AND PUBLIC TESTS, IS OUR NEWEST MEMBER!
BISHI (SNAP)
SHE NEEDS TO BE DRILLED GOOD AND HARD ON ALL THE KNOW-HOW SHE'LL NEED...
...OVER THE COMING YEAR!
I'LL DO MY BEST!!

GOTCHA!

BUWAA (VOOOM)

CAN'T REACH...

CLEANING!? LEAVE IT TO ME!

DESPITE MY LIMITED ABILITY, I HOPE YOU'LL SEE FIT TO INSTRUCT ME IN YOUR WAYS!!

TEA, IS IT!?

THIS IS SUZUMIYA-SAN'S CUP...

EEK, I WANNA WEAR A MAID OUTFIT!!

BAAN (ZOOM)

PLEASE, TRY IT!!

COMING RIGHT UP!

!?

PAA (BEAM)

GU (GULP)

LET'S SEE HERE ...

IT'S CALLED ROOI-BOS TEA!

HERE'S YOUR TEA!

YAAY!

PYOKO (HOP)

I KNOW, RIGHT!!?

GU (SQUEEZE)

YEAH!

TASTES LIKE IT'S GOOD FOR YOU!

WHAT A CURIOUS FLAVOR.

What!!? Would you have preferred a guy?

With another female member, it's... ...more cheerful, somehow.

!?

Our right to free speech was endangered enough already...

WAI

WAI

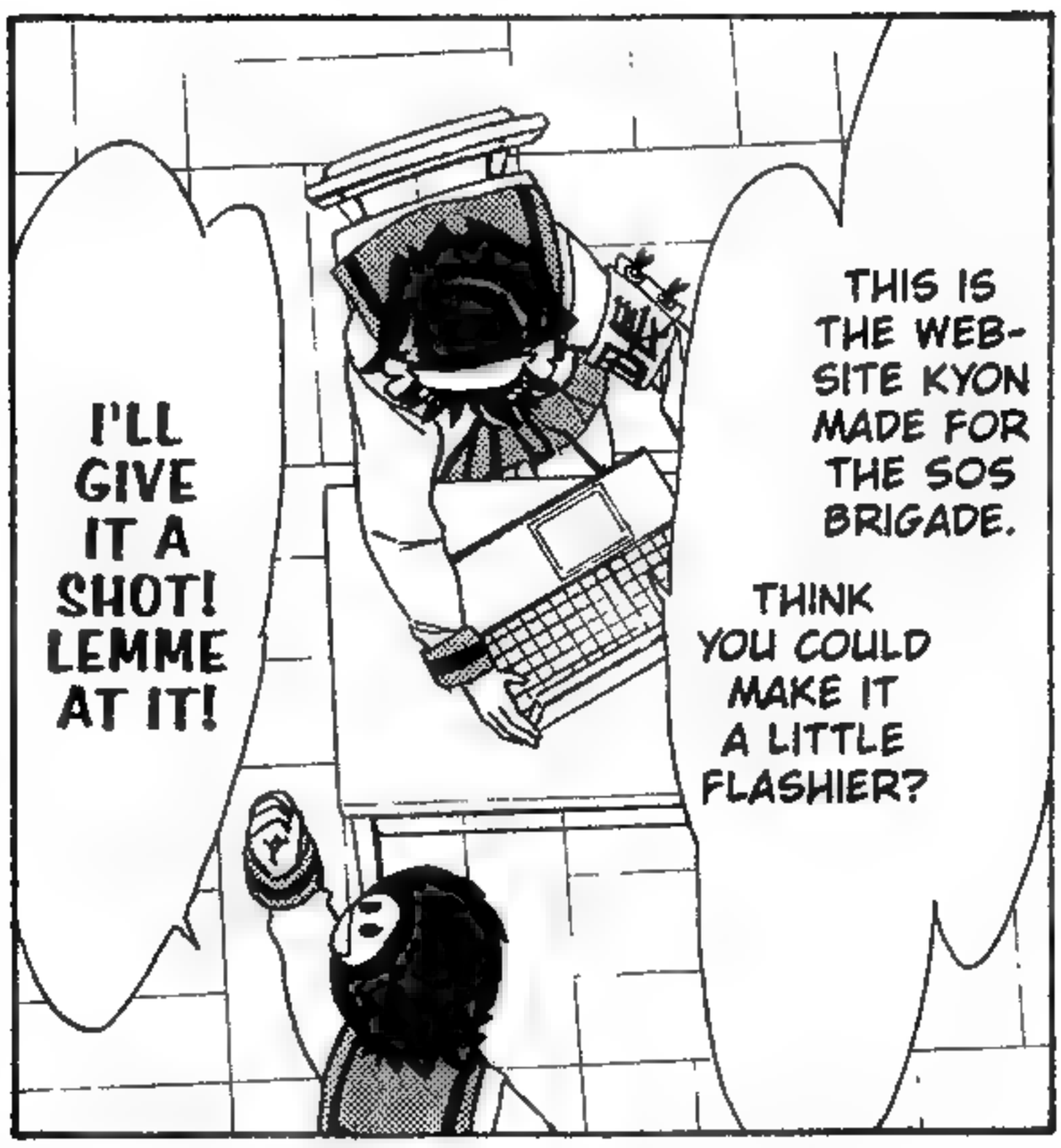
It's sad but true.

WAI

WAI CHATTER

Don't you think we're at a bit of a disadvantage with only two boys but four girls?

It's about balance.


I'LL GIVE IT A SHOT! LEMME AT IT!
THIS IS THE WEB-SITE KYON MADE FOR THE SOS BRIGADE.
THINK YOU COULD MAKE IT A LITTLE FLASHIER?

WELL, A LITTLE ...
YES!
BY THE WAY, YASUMI-CHAN, ARE YOU GOOD WITH COMPU-TERS?

MORE WEIRDLY, MORE LIKE.
NO DOUBT THINGS WILL GO MORE SMOOTHLY WITH ONLY GIRLS.

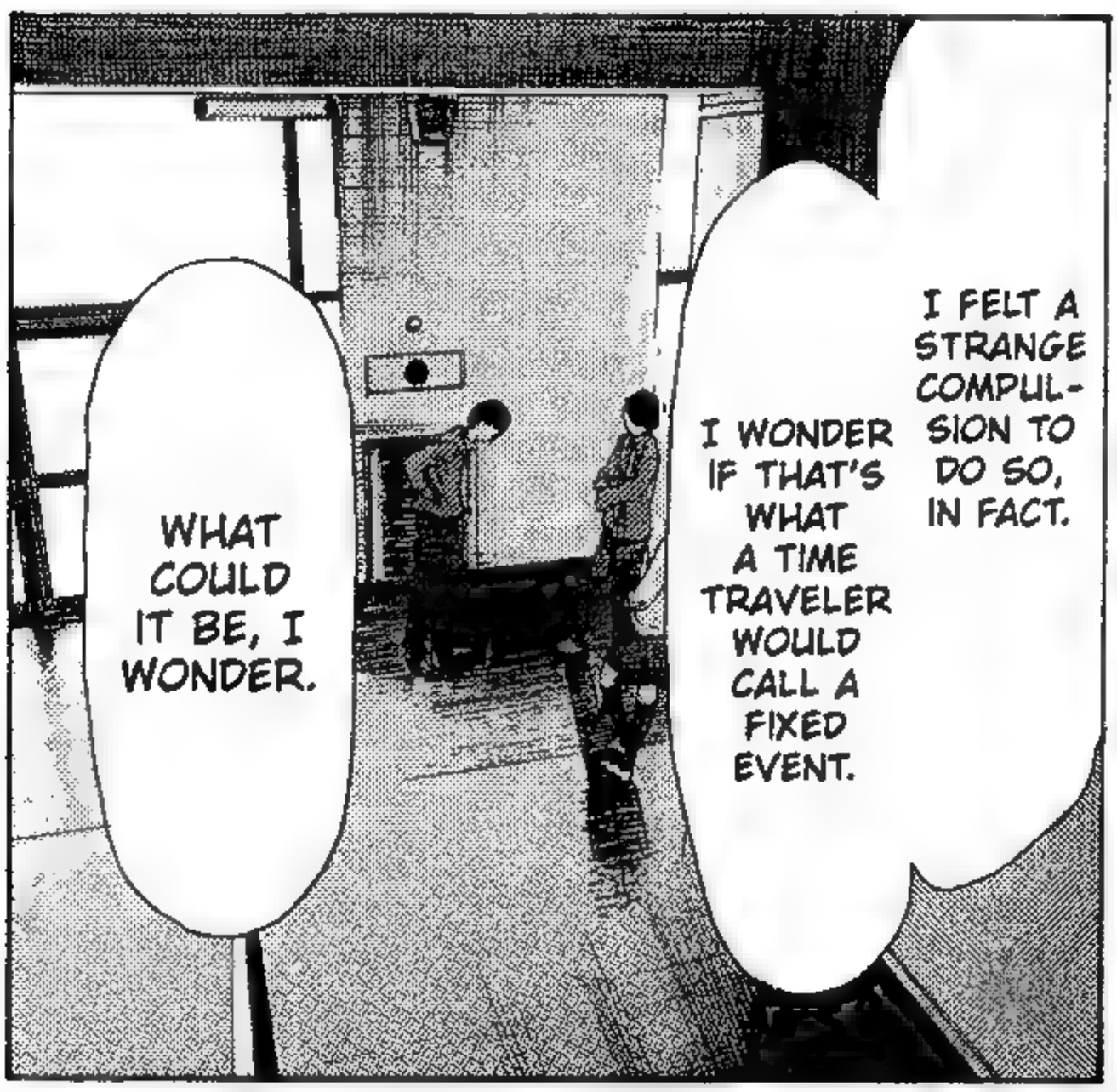
SEEMS LIKE ABOUT THE RIGHT TIME.
I THINK I'LL GO PLAY CATCH WITH KOIZUMI.

YASUMI WATAHASHI, I WON'T FORGET YOUR NAME!
HEY, SHE JUST TOLD YOU WHO MADE THAT SITE!
WHOA, USELESS TAGS EVERY-WHERE!
BUT, WAIT— WITH THESE APPS, YOU COULD'VE DONE A WAY BETTER JOB...
WOW, A TEXT-ONLY SITE! OLD-SCHOOL!

IT'S RARE FOR YOU TO INVITE ME ALONG TO ANYTHING.
KO (TAP)
KO
KO
TO SUGGEST A GAME OF CATCH.
HUH?

QUICK THINKING THERE.

TAKE HIM AS AN EXAMPLE OF WHAT NOT TO DO!
GEEZ, KYON'S TOTALLY WORTHLESS.
I JUST GOT THE FEELING IT WOULD BE A GOOD IDEA.
WHAT DO I KNOW?


WHAT COULD IT BE, I WONDER.
I WONDER IF THAT'S WHAT A TIME TRAVELER WOULD CALL A FIXED EVENT.
I FELT A STRANGE COMPULSION TO DO SO, IN FACT.

WHAT A COINCIDENCE. SO DID I.

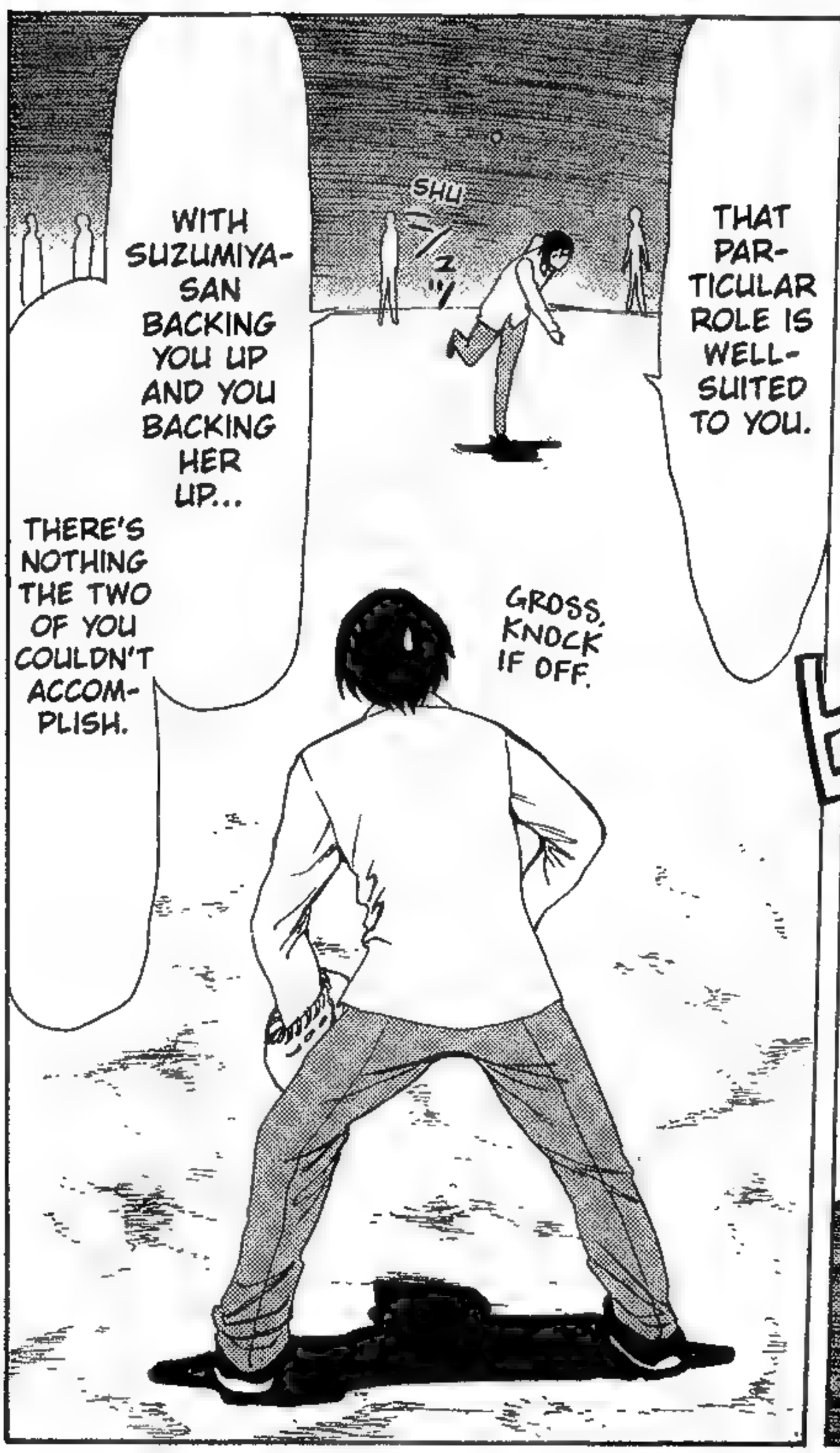
ZA
ZA (STEP)
AND IT'S MORE LIKELY THAT WE'RE SIMPLY BEING SUSPICIOUS.
NO, I DOUBT SHE KNOWS ANYTHING.
WHY DON'T YOU ASK ASAHINA-SAN?

PAN (SMACK)
IF WE START DOUBTING THINGS LIKE THIS, WE'LL JUST PLAY MORE AND MORE INTO THE TIME TRAVELERS' HANDS.

SHU (SHF)
IT'S JUST A MATTER OF PRIDE AS AN INHABITANT OF THE PRESENT.
THIS DOESN'T HAVE ANYTHING TO DO WITH BEING AN ESPER OR IN THE AGENCY.
AS A PAST-DWELLER, I DON'T WANT TO LOSE TO THE TIME TRAVELERS.

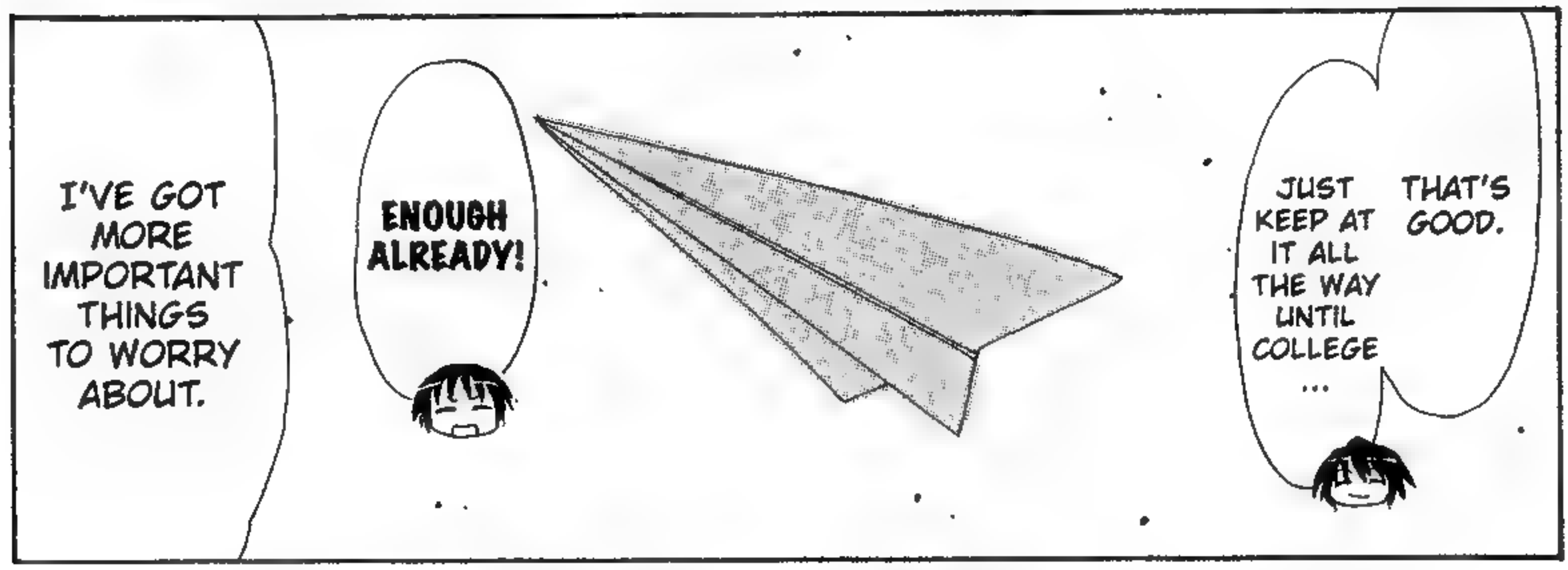
ZASHI (CRUNCH)
I DON'T MIND BEING LOOKED DOWN ON.
OUR OPPONENTS HAVE A GREATER ORGANIZATION THAN US, AND WITH MORE POWER.
ZASHI

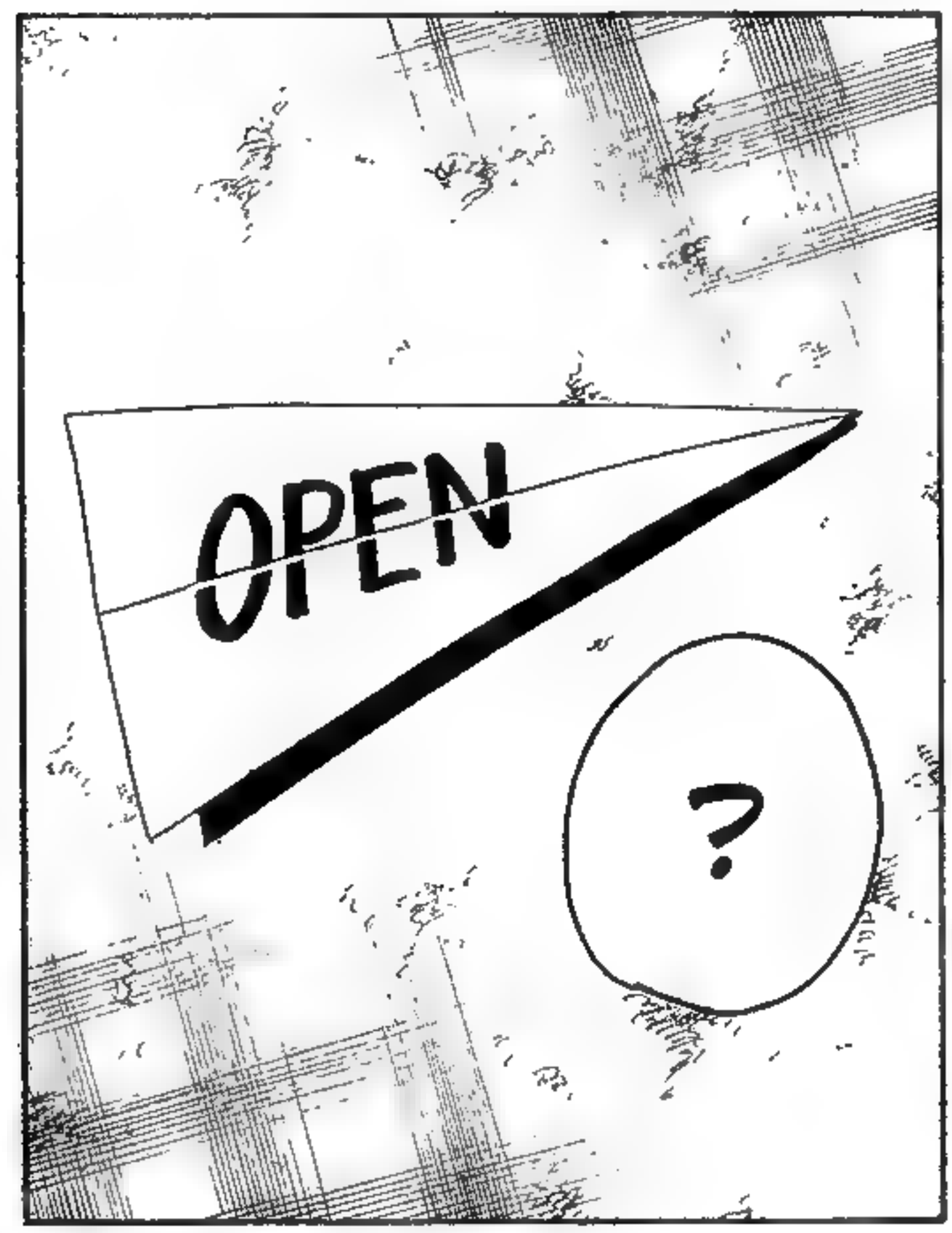
IT'S WEIRD TO HEAR YOU SOUNDING SO SINCERE.


SHU
WITH SUZUMIYA-SAN BACKING YOU UP AND YOU BACKING HER UP...
THERE'S NOTHING THE TWO OF YOU COULDN'T ACCOMPLISH.
GROSS. KNOCK IF OFF.

THAT PARTICULAR ROLE IS WELL-SUITED TO YOU.
HYU (WHP)
REBELLION AGAINST A GREATER POWER IS A CLASSIC TALE, NO MATTER THE PLACE OR ERA.
BUT PERSONALLY, I LOATHE THE IDEA OF RESIGNING MYSELF TO SUCH DISDAIN.

I GET THE FEELING SHE'S ONLY DOING IT BECAUSE SHE LIKES TEACHING.
IT'S OKAY.
SHU (SHF)
HA HA ...
SO, IS YOUR AFTER-SCHOOL STUDY WITH SUZUMIYA-SAN PROGRESSING WELL?


I'VE GOT MORE IMPORTANT THINGS TO WORRY ABOUT.
ENOUGH ALREADY!
JUST KEEP AT IT ALL THE WAY UNTIL COLLEGE ...
THAT'S GOOD.


OPEN
?

HIRARI (FLUTTER)
OH? SUCH AS?
KASA (RUSTLE)

MIKURU フォルダ発見!

PAPER: I FOUND THE MIKURU FOLDER!

GU (CLENCH)

DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT.

IT SEEMS YASUMI'S I.T. SKILLS ARE NOT TO BE UNDER-ESTIMATED.

IS SOME-THING THE MATTER?

THIS BEAUTIFUL, GORGEOUS PAGE!

BAN (BOOM)

SOS

Welcome to the S.O.S Brigade home page!!

We will solve your problems. Consultation visits always welcome!

And of course we're always looking for new brigade members!

BEHOLD, KYON!

IT MUST APPEAL TO THE PEOPLE THAT CARE ABOUT THIS KIND OF GAME.
I'M IMPRESSED THEY'VE GONE ALL THE WAY TO VERSION FIVE...

I GOT IT FROM THE COMPUTER CLUB.
IT'S THE ONLINE VERSION OF THE GAME WE PLAYED BEFORE... FREE, OF COURSE!
KACHI
KACHI

DOS-DOWN
The Days of Sagittarius
ver 5.0
COPYRIGHT(C)THE MEETING FOR THE COMPUTER
ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.
NEW GAME
LOAD GAME
OPTION
THE DAYS OF SAGITTARIUS FIVE...

I WANT SOMETHING MORE, LIKE, ARCADE-Y!
WHEW...
I BET THEY THINK LOSING TO SOMEONE LIKE HARUHI IS THE WORST THING THAT EVER HAPPENED TO THEM...

I WENT AHEAD AND ASKED THE COMPUTER CLUB TO DO MORE GAME DEVELOPMENT FOR US.
A MORE SOS BRIGADE-LIKE ONE, THIS TIME!

SAID THERE WAS SOMETHING SHE HAD TO DO.

SHE WENT HOME JUST A LITTLE WHILE AGO.

HEY, WHERE'D YASUMI GO?

DAAAA (GLOW)

SHE'S JUST SO CUUUTE!

I DON'T REALLY SEE IT, BUT OKAY.

SHE'S SO CUTE I JUST CAN'T STAND IT!

KYA

KYA (SQUEAL)

HER VOICE, HER ATTITUDE, HER EXPRESSIONS-

FUWA (FLOAT)
LOOKS LIKE SHE WON'T GET BORED RIGHT AWAY.
AHEM!
SHE CERTAINLY SEEMS TO HAVE HIT THE BULL'S-EYE WITH MIKURU-CHAN.
ARE YOU SERIOUS?

BOOKS ARE GREAT, RIGHT? "WIND, SAND AND STARS" WAS JUST AMAZING!
SHE EVEN GLOMMED ONTO NAGATO.
SHE MUST BE GOOD AT MAKING FRIENDS!

YEAH, IT HAD A TITLE LIKE SOME KIND OF SATELLITE.
SHE ASKED ME TO.
I LENT HER A BOOK.

THE SOS BRIGADE MUST NOT NEGLECT THE EDUCATION OF THE NEXT GENERATION!
ANYWAY, HAVING A NEW MEMBER JOIN US BODES WELL FOR THE NEW SCHOOL YEAR!
BAAN (BOOM)
SQUEE!

I JUST CAN'T SEE IT.

THERE'S NO WAY THE SINGLE NEW MEMBER HARUHI CHOSE IS A NORMAL PERSON.

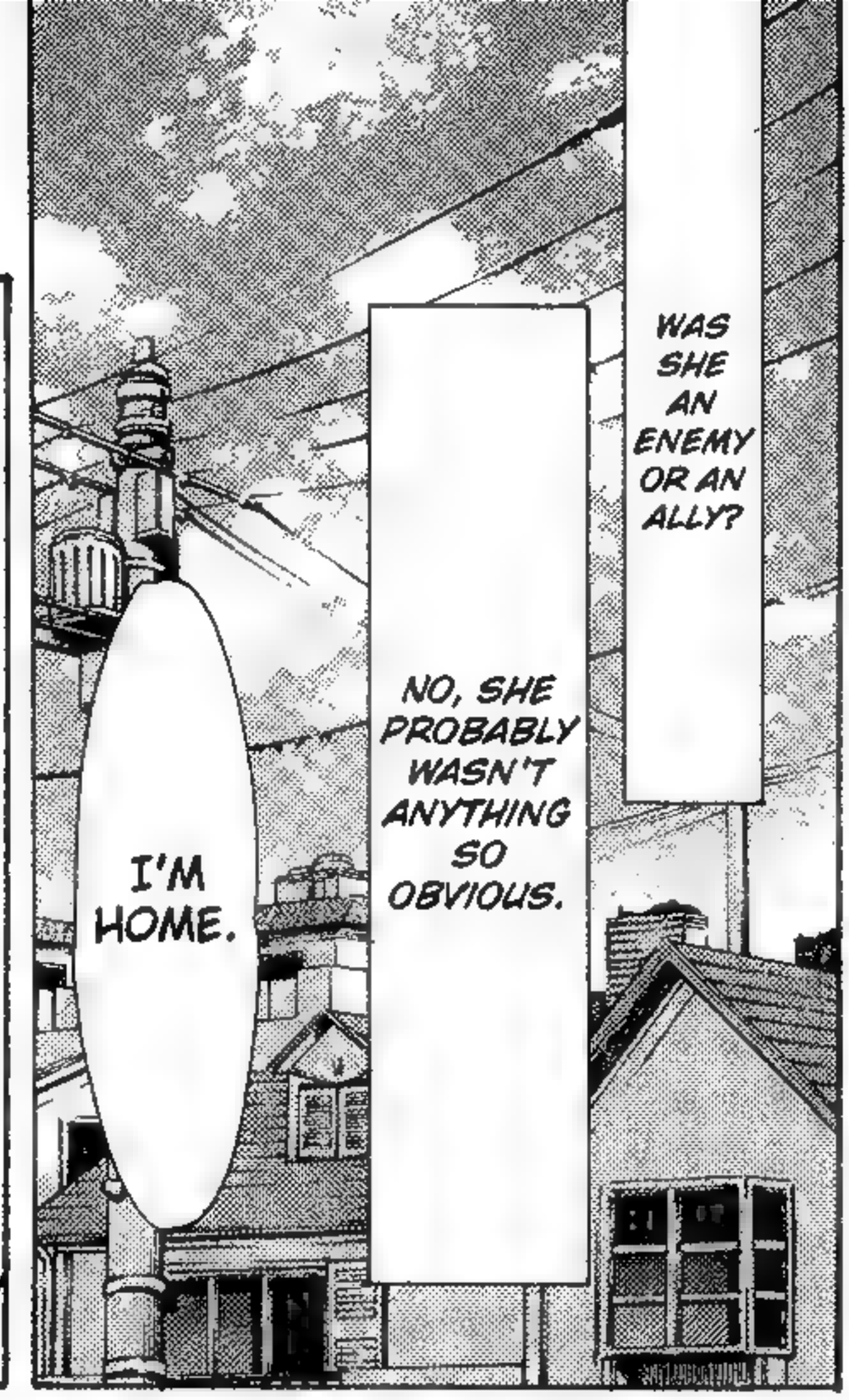
NONE OF THIS IS SITTING WELL WITH ME.

IT WAS ALMOST AN OPTIMISTIC FEELING...

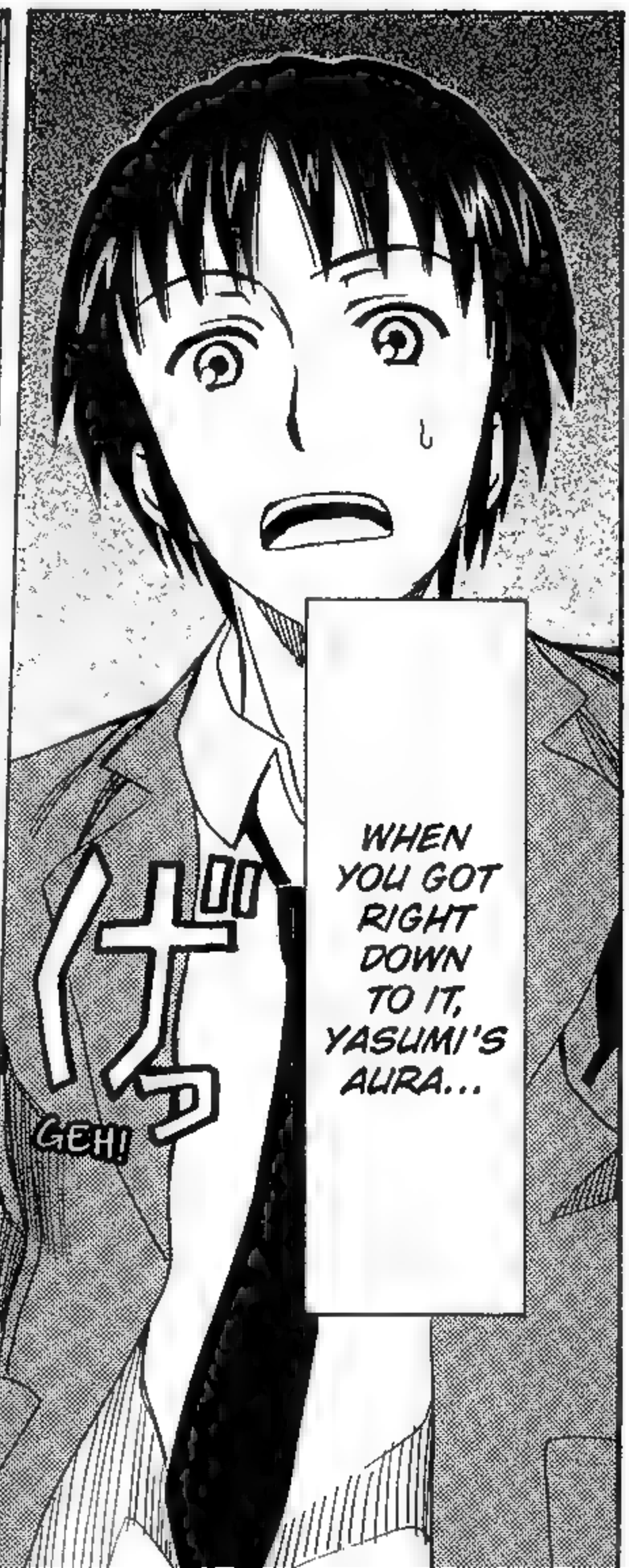
THIS STRANGE TENSION IN MY CHEST THAT YASUMI ALWAYS INSPIRED ...

THIS VAGUE FEELING OF UNEASE ...

WELCOME HOME, SENPAI! SORRY TO BOTHER YOU!


I'M HOME.
NO, SHE PROBABLY WASN'T ANYTHING SO OBVIOUS.
WAS SHE AN ENEMY OR AN ALLY?

...WAS LIKE HARUHI'S OR SASAKI'S.
BUT I HAD NO IDEA WHY.
BAN (BAM)


WHEN YOU GOT RIGHT DOWN TO IT, YASUMI'S AURA...
GEH!

PAA (BEAM)
I SHOULDN'T HAVE HESITATED!
...BUT THINGS TOOK LONGER THAN I EXPECTED ...
I REALLY WANTED TO COME YESTERDAY...

ZA (STEP)
WHA!? WHAT... WHAT'RE YOU DOING HERE!?

WELL, I MEAN ...
YOU LET HER IN!?
WHAT THE HECK!?
EXPECTED? HESITATED?

SHE'S SUCH A GOOD GIRL!
I WANT TO JUST PICK HER UP AND TAKE A NAP WITH HER!
I KNEW RIGHT AWAY SHE WAS YOUR LITTLE SISTER!
I THINK MY LITTLE SISTER MAY BE TOO NICE FOR HER OWN GOOD.

...SHE SAID SHE WAS YOUR FRIEND!

BA (WHIP)
TO YOUR HOUSE, I MEAN.
YUP, I JUST WANTED TO COME BY AT LEAST ONCE.

I THOUGHT YOU SAID YOU HAD SOME-THING TO DO.
DON'T TELL ME THAT WAS...

I GOT TO MEET YOUR ADORABLE LITTLE SISTER, AND THIS CAT!
...BUT I'M GLAD I CAME!
I KNEW I WAS BEING PUSHY...

EH HE HE HE...
I CAN'T HAVE PETS ANY-MORE, SO....
BUT I LOVE PLAYING WITH OTHER PEOPLE'S PETS WHEN I VISIT!

GOOD BOY!
WHAT A LOVELY CALICO! HE SEEMS PRETTY SMART TOO. I'M IM-PRESSED.

EH HE HE HE...
THIS IS A TREASURE I'VE HAD SINCE I WAS LITTLE, SO I CAN'T GIVE IT TO YOU RIGHT NOW.
SORRY!

HYO! (POP) ひょい
SO, WHAT WERE WE TALKING ABOUT?
I REALLY LIKE THAT BARRETTE! CAN I HAVE IT?

SO I MIGHT WIND UP FLOATING BACK HERE SOME-TIME.
OR MAYBE EVEN JUST THIS BARRETTE. EVENTUALLY, SOMEDAY...

BUT IT MIGHT COME AROUND TO YOU EVEN-TUALLY.
WE'RE ALL LITTLE BOATS FLOATING ON THE RIVER OF THE WORLD.

...THERE'D BE SOME COOL CLUB...
I ALWAYS DREAMED THAT WHEN I WENT TO A NEW SCHOOL...

AND SOME KIND OF COINCIDENCE WOULD SUCK ME INTO IT...
...AND I'D JOIN UP.

THE NARRATORS OF EVERY GOOD STORY ALWAYS HAVE SOMETHING LIKE THAT HAPPEN.
THAT I'D KEEP QUIET AND THEY'D APPROACH ME.
ISN'T THAT HOW IT IS?

THAT'S THE KIND OF PROTAGONIST I WANTED TO BE.

AND THE CLUB WOULD BE FULL OF FASCI-NATING STUDENTS ...

...AND I'D WIND UP GETTING CLOSE TO ONE OF THEM...

SU (SHF)

JUST KIDDING!

ARE YOU...

YASUMI WATA-HASHI ...

SORRY FOR INTRUDING!

BUT I'M TOTALLY SATISFIED NOW.

I WON'T COME AGAIN.

SOFUTO

ACTUALLY I JUST WANTED TO SEE YOUR ROOM.

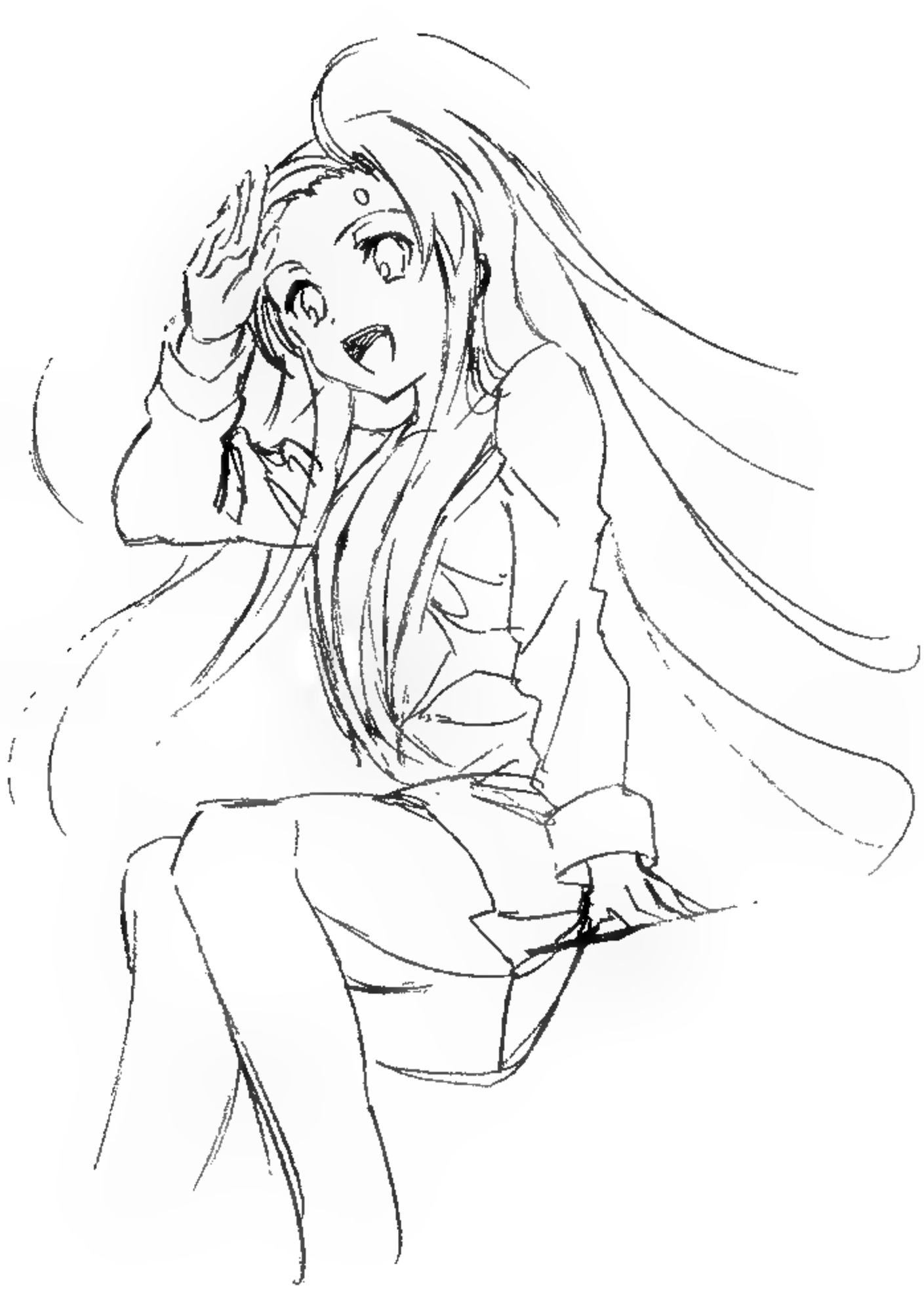
SUPAAN (SHWAAP)

PAA (BEAM)

DON'T HATE ME...

...OKAY, SENPAI?

THE SURPRISE OF HARUHI SUZUMIYA VIII : END



The Melancholy of Haruhi Suzumiya

THE SURPRISE OF HARUHI SUZUMIYA IX
β—10
HEY, KYON.
ABOUT YUKI...
DO YOU THINK MAYBE IT WOULD BE GOOD TO FORCE HER TO GO TO THE HOSPITAL?
TA (TAP)
TA
IT'S LIKE THERE'S SOMETHING STRANGE ABOUT TO HAPPEN ON A BIGGER SCALE...
I'M JUST WORRIED.
AND NOT JUST ABOUT YUKI...

THE SURPRISE OF HARUHI SUZUMIYA IX

PI (JAB)
I WON'T EVEN GET ANY OF ASAHINA-SAN'S TEA.
WHAT? WHY?

I'M GOING TO YUKI'S WITH MIKURU.
YOU STAY IN THE CLUB ROOM.

NEW.
CLUB.
MEM-BERS.
GOT IT!?

MAN, WHAT A TER-RIBLE THING TO HEAR.
PLUS, YOU'RE TOTALLY USELESS WHEN IT COMES TO TAKING CARE OF YUKI.
THEY MIGHT COME.
SO I'M COUNTING ON YOU TO PLAY BACKUP.

PERFECT TIMING.
I WANTED TO ASK YOU ABOUT KUYOH.

HM?
HEY, TANI-GUCHI.

I GUESS I'LL BE MINDING THE CLUB ROOM TODAY.

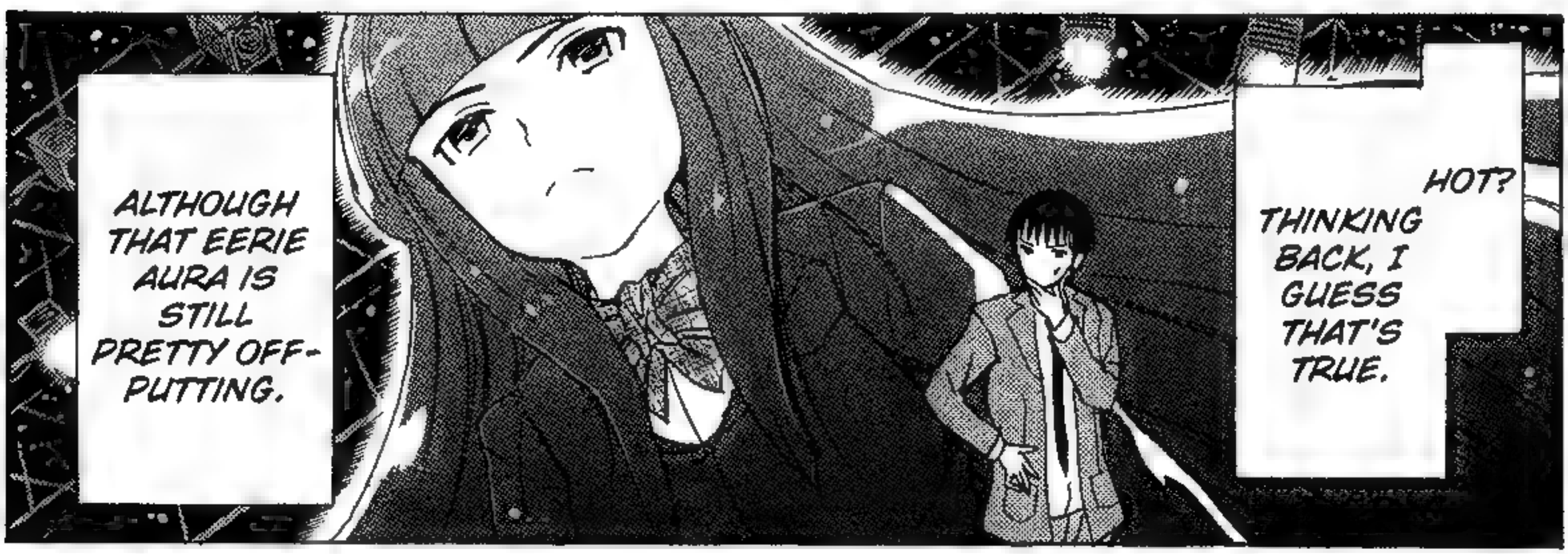
C'MON, DON'T SAY THAT.
SOME-THING WAS WRONG WITH ME BACK THEN.

KYON, BUDDY.
I REALLY DON'T WANNA THINK ABOUT THAT.

ガバァ
GABAA (TACKLE)
DON'T OPEN OLD WOUNDS, MAN...
YOU AT LEAST WENT ON DATES, RIGHT?
WHAT KIND OF THINGS DID YOU DO WITH HER AFTER CHRIST-MAS?

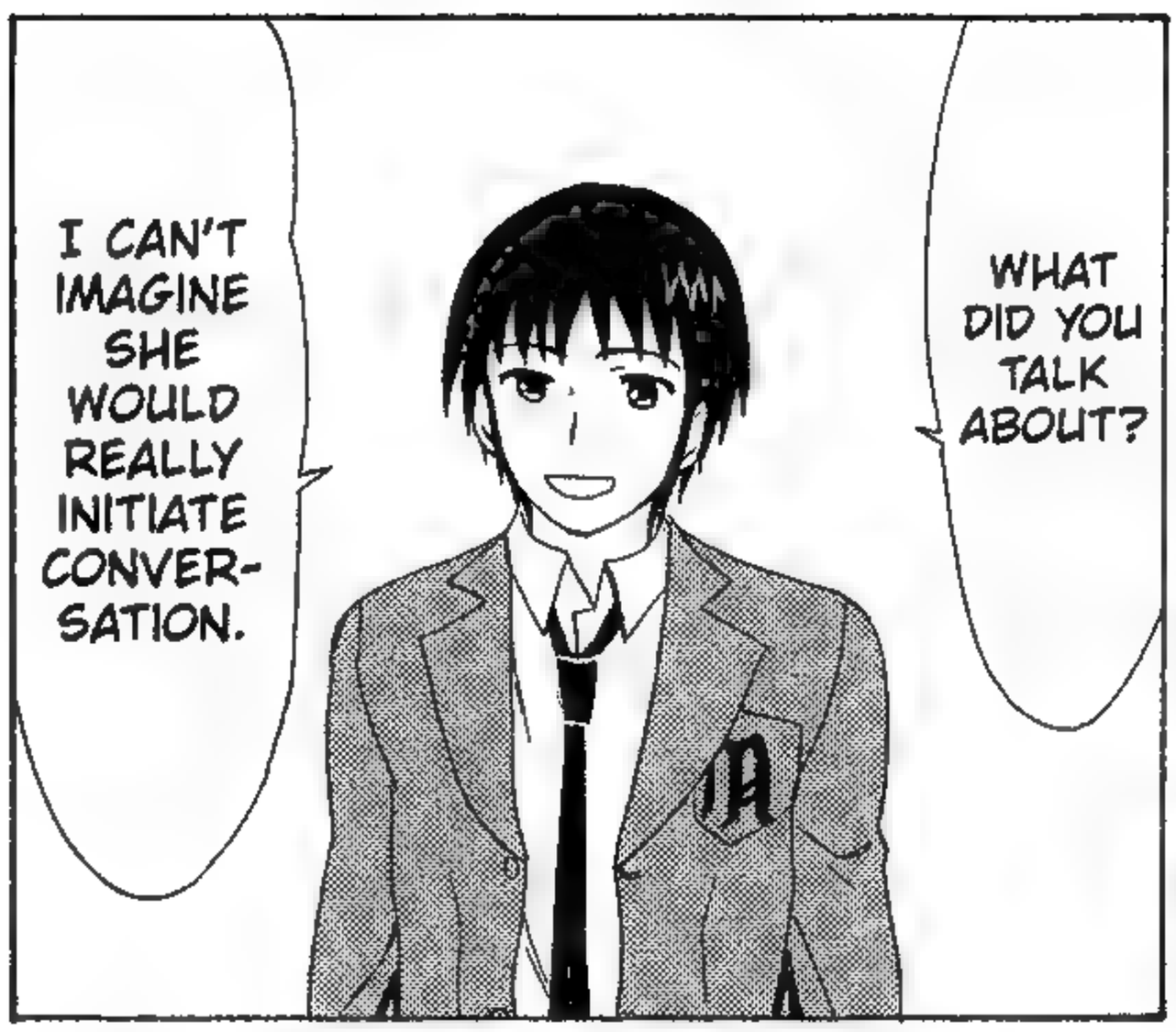
AT FIRST I DIDN'T REALIZE WHAT KIND OF GIRL SHE REALLY WAS...
I MEAN, SHE WAS HOT, SO.

YOU SAID SHE WAS THE ONE WHO AP-PROACHED YOU, RIGHT?
YEAH, IT WAS JUST BEFORE CHRIST-MAS.

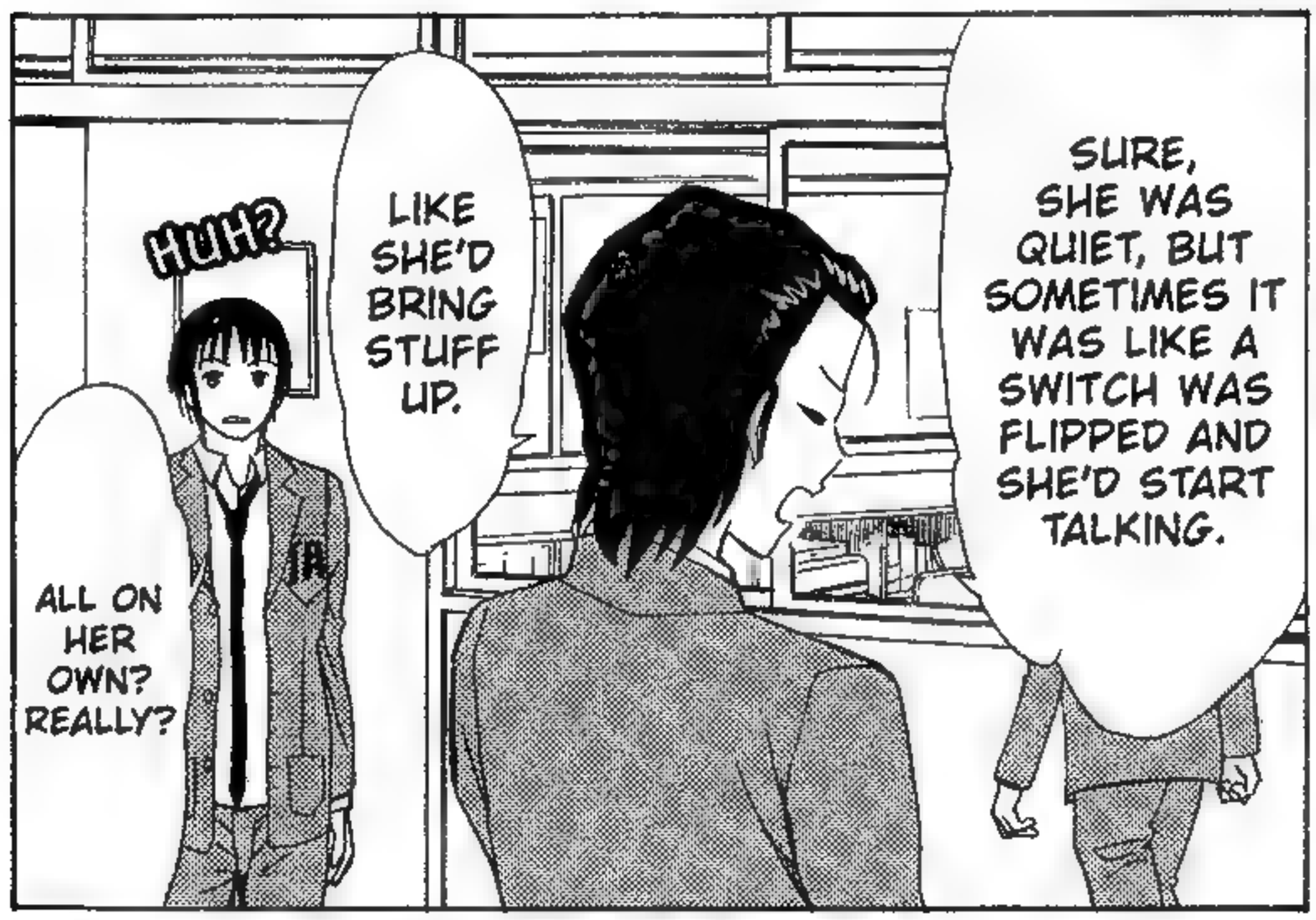

ALTHOUGH THAT EERIE AURA IS STILL PRETTY OFF-PUTTING.
HOT?
THINKING BACK, I GUESS THAT'S TRUE.

YOU KNOW, THE BASICS.
MOV-IES... FOOD ...
I GUESS SHE WAS A LITTLE STRANGE.

THE OLD YEAR TURNED INTO THE NEW YEAR.
AND PRETTY SOON I WAS THE ONE INVITING HER OUT.
SOMETIMES SHE WOULD SUGGEST PLACES TO GO TO.


I CAN'T IMAGINE SHE WOULD REALLY INITIATE CONVERSATION.
WHAT DID YOU TALK ABOUT?

WHICH I THOUGHT WAS WEIRD.
SHE ALWAYS WANTED TO GO TO FAST FOOD PLACES.


HUH?
ALL ON HER OWN? REALLY?
LIKE SHE'D BRING STUFF UP.
SURE, SHE WAS QUIET, BUT SOMETIMES IT WAS LIKE A SWITCH WAS FLIPPED AND SHE'D START TALKING.

THAT'S NOT TRUE.

ANOTHER CAT-LOVER?
SHE INSISTED THAT CATS WERE MORE ADVANCED LIFE-FORMS THAN HUMANS AND WENT ON AND ON...
I THOUGHT I WAS GONNA FALL ASLEEP.

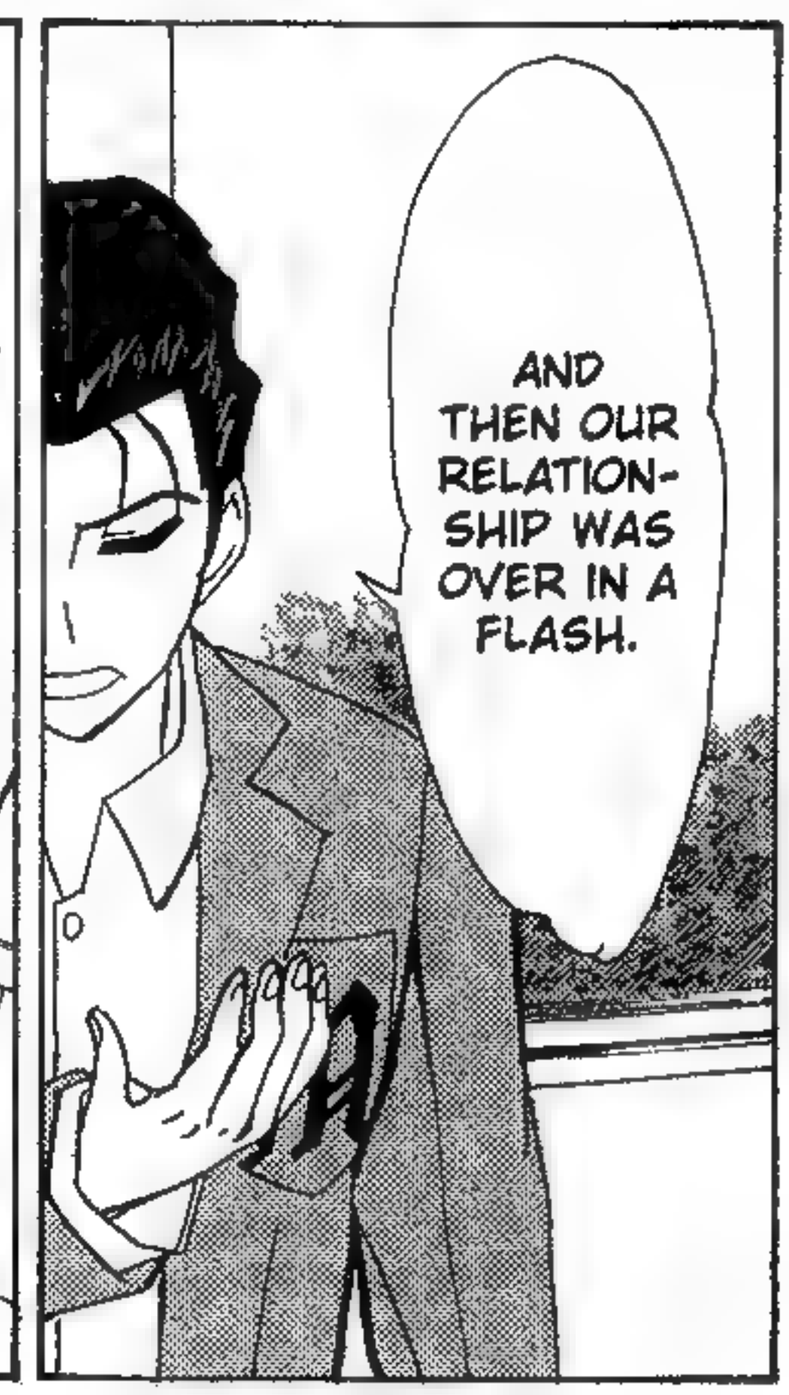
SHE SAID SHE WANTED A CAT.

ON THE SCALE OF HUNDREDS OF MILLIONS OF YEARS!?

I MEAN, WHAT WAS I SUPPOSED TO SAY TO THAT?

SHE LIKED THE WEIRDEST, MOST OBSCURE TOPICS TOO.

LIKE HUMAN EVOLUTION AND STUFF...



Hi! Hi! Hi!
KUYOH SUOH.
SHE'S ACTUALLY QUITE FOOLISH, IN A WAY.
AND THIS IS JUST MY IMAGI-NATION RUN-NING WILD...

AND RIGHT BEFORE VALEN-TINE'S DAY TOO.
I'VE BEEN DUMPED!

IT WAS AROUND WHEN KOIZUMI AND I HAD DUG HOLES ALL OVER THAT MOUNTAIN ...
...AND HAD OUR FIRST ENCOUNTER WITH KYOKO TACHIBANA AND FUJIWARA.

SO YOU WERE THE ONE HANGING OUT WITH HER ALL THAT TIME.
?
PON (PAT)

WHAT THE HECK KINDA WAY TO EAT IS THAT!?
PERO
PERO
PERO (LICK)
PERO
PERO
PERO
IF KUYOH HAD MADE CONTACT WITH ME BEFORE HARUHI'S CHRISTMAS PARTY...
...THINGS COULD'VE GOTTEN REALLY CRAZY.
LUNCH MENU

GROSS, MAN.
HAVE YOU TAKEN ONE TOO MANY ROUND-HOUSE KICKS FROM HARUHI OR SOME-THING?
HUH?
GA (GRAB)

キラキラキラ
KIRA KIRA KIRA (SPARKLE)
YOU'RE ACTU-ALLY AN AMAZING GUY...
TANI-GUCHI.

PA (WHAP)
ANYWAY...
...SAME GOES FOR YOU, PAL.

YOU'RE CREEPING ME OUT, MAN.
YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE FOR HER.
I'M COUNTING ON YOU TO KEEP BABYSITTING SUZUMIYA UNTIL GRADUATION.
YOU'RE SERIOUS BUSINESS, KYON.
YOU LASTED A WHOLE YEAR IN THAT CRAZY CLUB.

TA (TMP)
タッ
HARUHI, WHO IS LIKE UNTO A GOD.

I'M NOT REALLY PLANNING TO GO TO THE SAME COLLEGE AS HER...
...BUT I WONDER WHAT HARUHI'S THINKING.

BABY-SITTING, HUH.
KO (CLICK)
KO

HM?

HUH?
KO

AH, SEN-PAI!?

IT LOOKS LIKE I GOT MIXED-UP!

UH...

ARE YOU A FRESH-MAN?

キャハハ!
KYA HA!

THESE THINGS HAPPEN, Y'KNOW?

YOU'LL UNDERSTAND SOON ENOUGH!

I MEAN, THERE'S NO WAY YOU WON'T, AFTER ALL!

だ! DA

だ! DA

だ! DA

だ! DA

だ! DA

DASHD DA

JUST PROMISE ME THAT, OKAY?

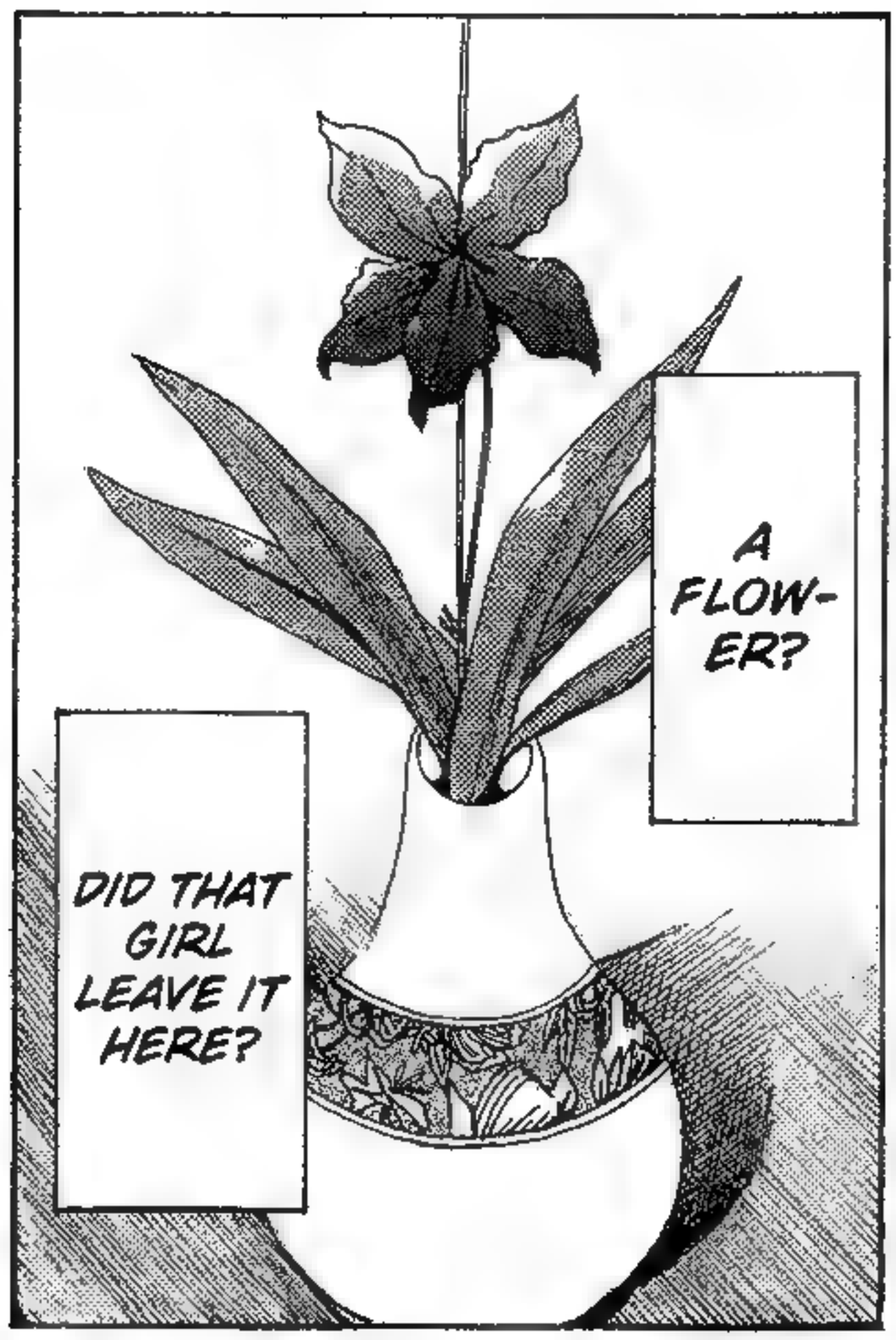
UMM...

BUT IF SOMETHING WEIRD TRIES TO STOP YOU, YOU HAVE TO PROMISE NOT TO FREAK OUT OR BE SWAYED BY EMOTION, OKAY?

UH...

UNTIL WE MEET AGAIN!

BYE!


A FLOW-ER?
DID THAT GIRL LEAVE IT HERE?

WHO... WAS THAT?

BATAN (SLAM)

DID I JUST LET HER ESCAPE?
HA (GASP)
COULD SHE SERIOUSLY HAVE BEEN A PROSPECTIVE BRIGADE MEMBER?

STILL, THAT PUSHI-NESS...
...SHE REMINDS ME OF A CERTAIN SOMEONE.

UNTIL WE MEET AGAIN? WHEN? WHERE?
NO, IT CAN'T BE.

KYON.

FUJIWARA-KUN WANTS US TO MEET IN FRONT OF THE STATION AGAIN TOMORROW.

THAT NIGHT ...

IT'S FINALLY HAPPEN-ING...

IT'S UNKNOWN WHETHER THEY'RE GOING TO ELIMINATE ME...

...OR JUST TRY TO USE ME.

HE SEEMS SERI-OUS.

HE MEANS TO FINISH THINGS THIS TIME.

You and your decisions are the key to everything.

AND THAT'S YOU.

BUT ONE THING'S CERTAIN.

WHATEVER'S GOING TO HAPPEN TO THE WORLD, NEITHER YOU NOR I CAN DO MUCH TO CHANGE IT.

BUT YOU DON'T HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT IT TOO MUCH.

What we can change is the future.

WE HERE IN THE PRESENT DON'T HAVE MUCH TO WORRY ABOUT.

LET'S LET THE FUTURE WORK ITSELF OUT, OKAY?

But this world is our present.

From their perspective, we're people from the past.

After all...

I'm sure you'll figure something out.

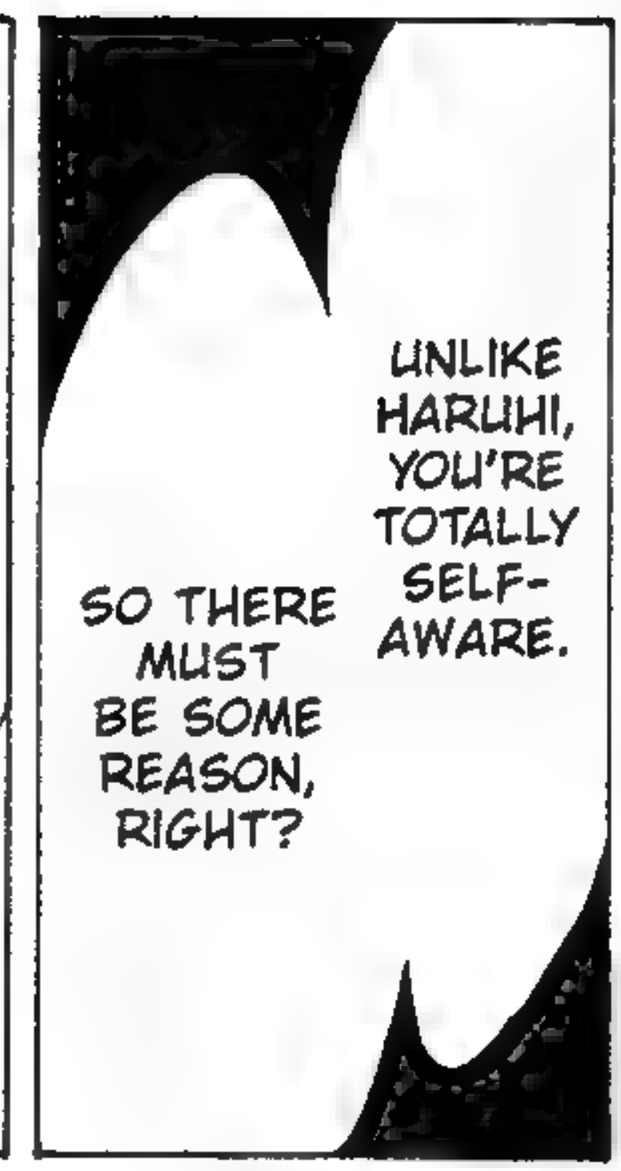
Kyon.

That's our biggest advantage against them.

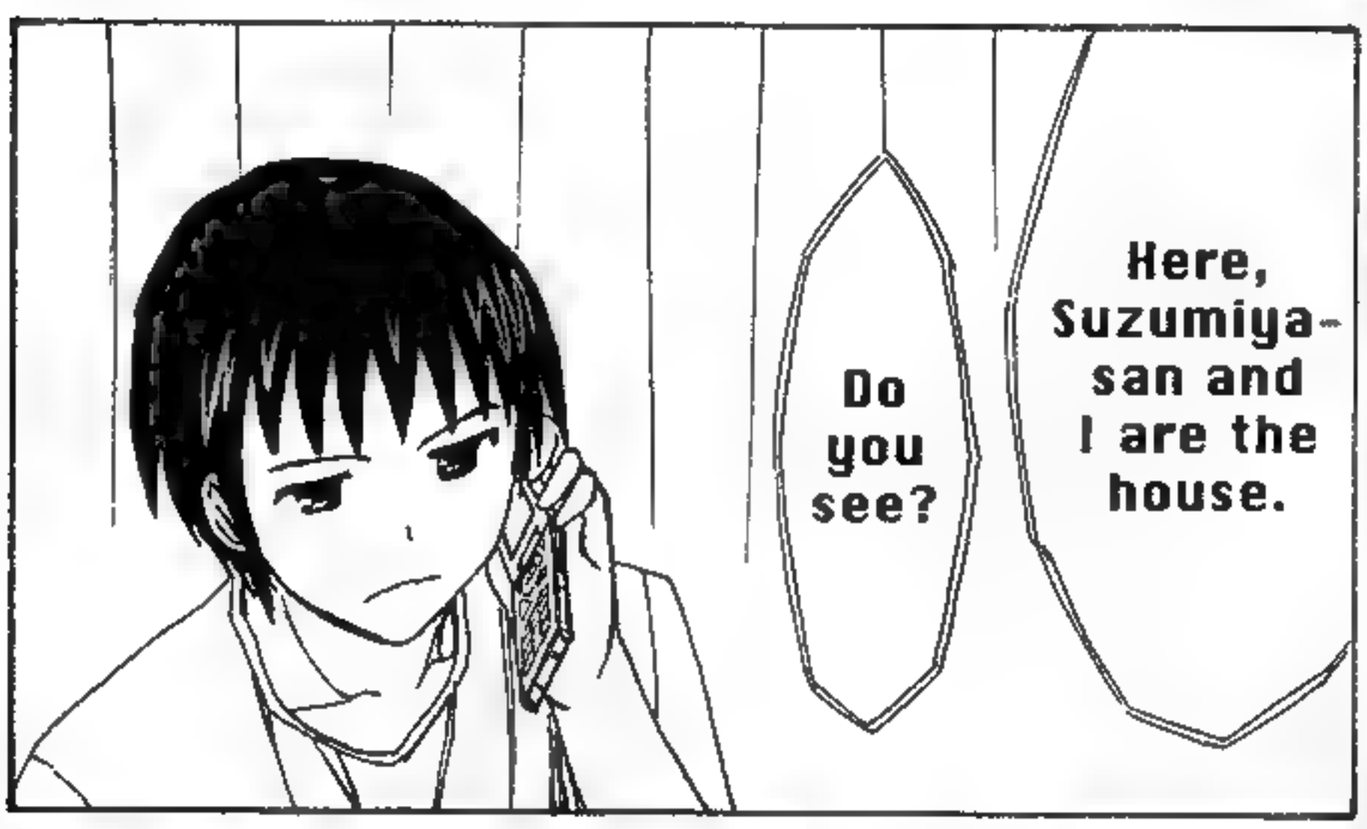
And that's you.

...THERE'S ONLY ONE PERSON BOTH SUZUMIYA-SAN AND I CHOSE.

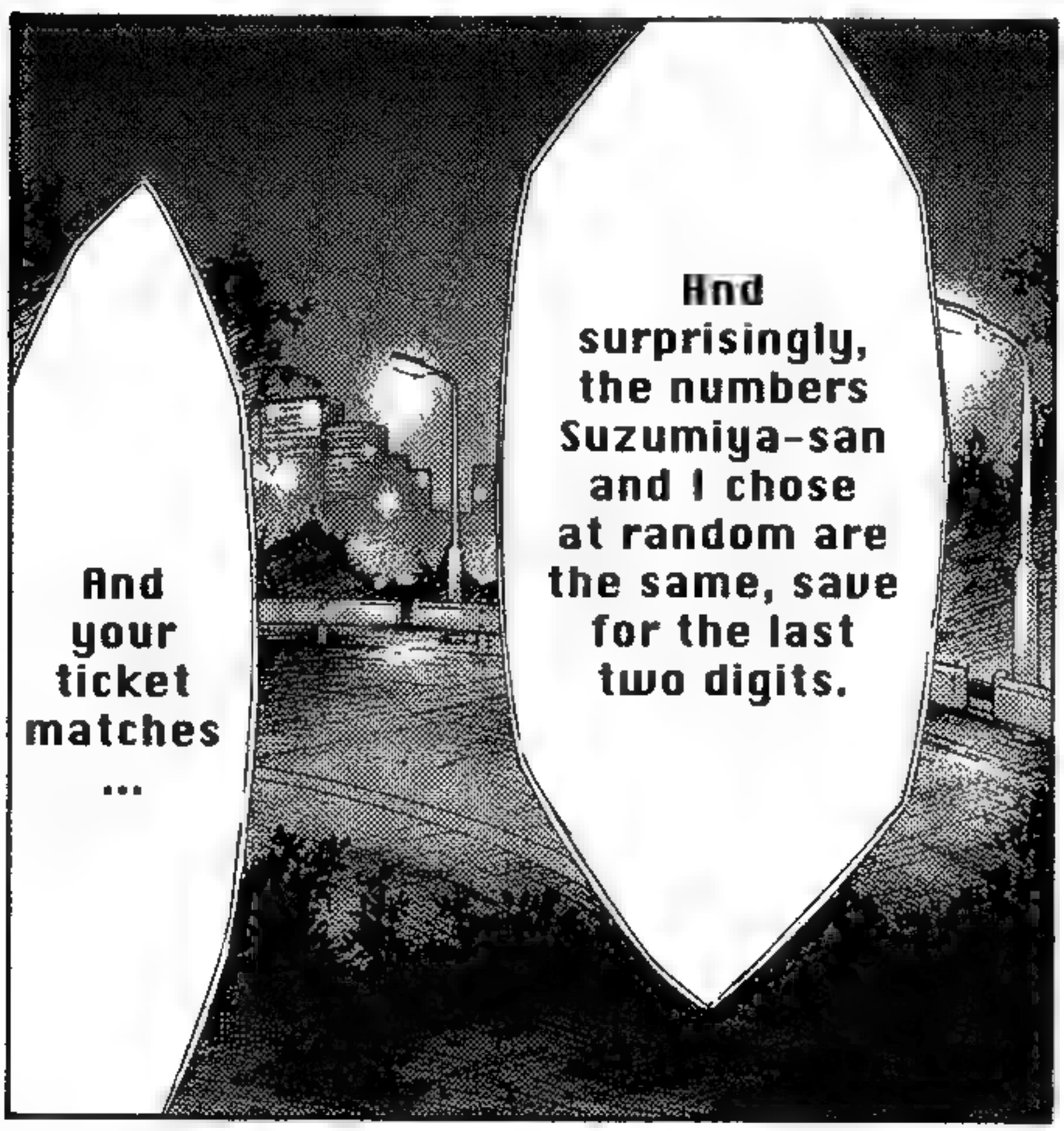
HEH... YOUR THICK-HEADED-NESS HAS ALWAYS GIVEN ME FITS ...
...BUT I'M SURPRISED YOU WOULD TAKE IT THIS FAR.


UNLIKE HARUHI, YOU'RE TOTALLY SELF-AWARE.
SO THERE MUST BE SOME REASON, RIGHT?

SASAKI.
WHY DID YOU CHOOSE ME?


Do you see?
Here, Suzumiya-san and I are the house.

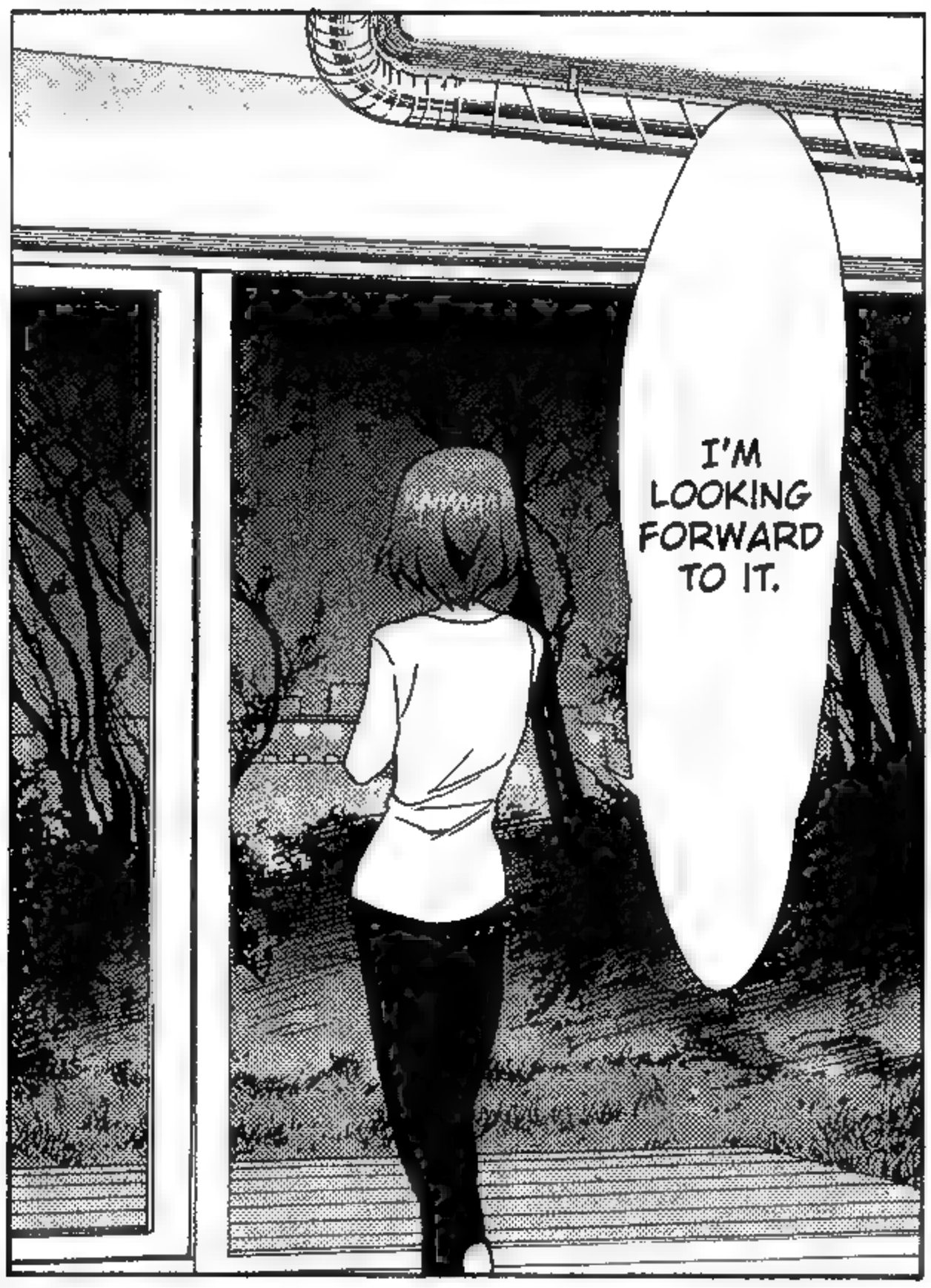
LET'S SPEAK HYPO-THET-ICALLY.
LET'S SAY YOU'VE BOUGHT A LOTTERY TICKET.


And your ticket matches ...
And surprisingly, the numbers Suzumiya-san and I chose at random are the same, save for the last two digits.

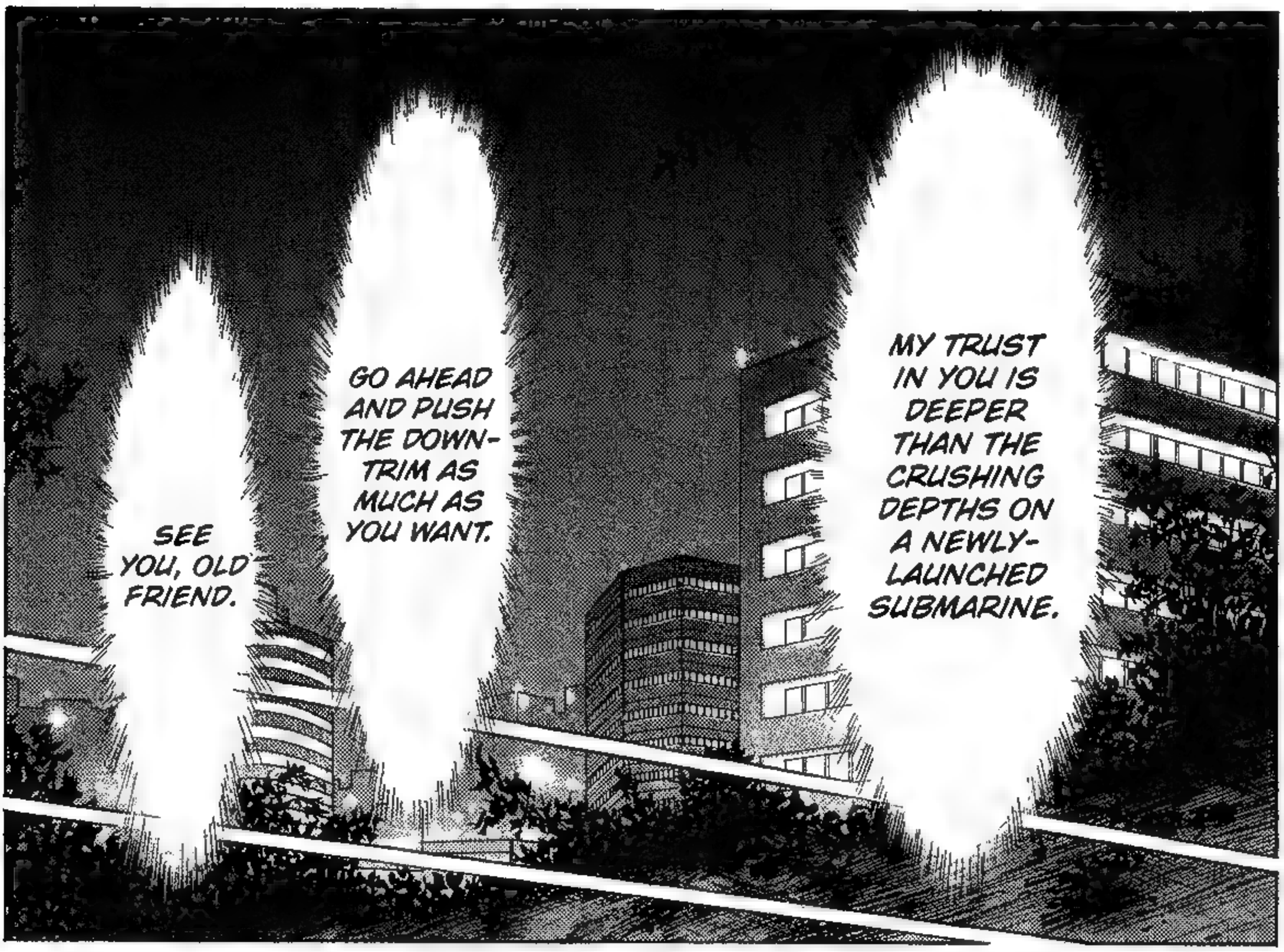
BUT YOU DON'T YET KNOW WHAT THE LAST TWO DIGITS YOU'RE HOLDING ARE.

THEY HAVE TO BE CHOSEN.

By your power and no one else's.


I'M LOOKING FORWARD TO IT.

ALL RIGHT, SASAKI.
LEAVE IT TO ME. I'LL SEE YOU TOMORROW.


SEE YOU, OLD FRIEND.
GO AHEAD AND PUSH THE DOWN-TRIM AS MUCH AS YOU WANT.
MY TRUST IN YOU IS DEEPER THAN THE CRUSHING DEPTHS ON A NEWLY-LAUNCHED SUBMARINE.

α—11

THE PAST WEEK HAD BEEN OVERWHELMINGLY BUSY.

HARUHI'S EXAMINATIONS, MEETING YASUMI ...

IT WAS ALREADY FRIDAY...

PERHAPS UNBEKNOWNST TO ME, THEY WERE STRUGGLING WITH NAGATO, KOIZUMI, OR ASAHINA-SAN.

THEY WERE ALL UNITED IN THEIR GOAL OF PRESERVING HARUHI'S PEACEFUL LIFE, AFTER ALL.

IT WAS STRANGE THEY HADN'T SAID ANYTHING TO ME.

WOULD ASAHINA-SAN...? NAH...

STILL ...

BWUH?

KACHA (KACHK)

カチャ

AFTER ALL THIS, WAS I STILL BEING TREATED LIKE AN OUTSIDER?

ENVELOPE: YASUMI WATAHASHI

HOW MANY TIMES HAS THIS HAP-PENED TO ME SO FAR?
THINK BACK, NOW...

BA (WHAP)

KYORO
キョロ
KYORO (GLANCE)
キョロ

SO FAR THESE NOTES HAVEN'T EXACTLY BEEN PORTALS TO ROMANTIC BLISS...
ASAKURA, ASAHINA THE ELDER...
THINK BACK!

HAS SPRINGTIME FINALLY COME FOR ME...?
IS THIS TRULY A LOVE LETTER?

SENPAAAA!!
SENPAI!
...SHE SEEMED TOTALLY HARM-LESS, SO...
BUT MAYBE THIS TIME...
FLOWERS!

午後六時　部室で
会いましょう。
来てください。ねっ！

NOTE: I'LL MEET YOU IN THE CLUB ROOM AT 6 PM. PLEASE COME, OKAY?

SFX: PURU (TREMBLE) PURU

WHAT A STUPID QUES-TION.
YEAH, SOMETHING LIKE THAT.

WHAT, FOR MODERN LIT?
I HAVE TO KNOW WHAT THE QUESTION-WRITER'S ANSWER WOULD BE.

OKAY.
SAY YOU'VE GOT A PROBLEM THAT YOU'RE NOT SURE HOW TO AP-PROACH.

...IN THIS CASE THE WRITER AND THE QUESTION-ASKER ARE THE SAME.
NO, I MEAN ...

...IS INSIDE THEM ALONE, SO THERE'S NO WAY OF KNOWING.
WHATEVER A WRITER WAS THINKING...

ALL YOU HAVE TO DO...
BAN (WHAM)
...IS JUST ASK WHO-EVER WROTE IT!

WELL, THEN IT'S SIMPLE.

WAIT...
WHICH CLASS WAS SHE IN, AGAIN?
... NEVER-THELESS ...
IT MIGHT'VE BEEN BAD MANNERS TO SHOW UP EARLY DESPITE THE NOTE'S INSTRUCTION TO COME AT SIX O'CLOCK...
MMM... SHE'S TOTALLY RIGHT.
I WOULD'VE THOUGHT HER SMALL SIZE WOULD'VE MADE HER WEIRDLY EASIER TO SPOT, BUT...
SHE'S NOT HERE?
THAT'S WEIRD.

AFTER SCHOOL.

AH, KYON-KUN!

HELLO!

ぱっ PA (BEAM)

AWWWWW!

SO, SO CUTE ...!

UH-HUH.

SHE LOOKED AT ME WITH THOSE EYES, LIKE A LITTLE BABY ANIMAL ...

AWW...

SHE BOWED OVER AND OVER AND SEEMED VERY, VERY SORRY...

I DON'T GET WHAT THIS MYSTERY GIRL IS PLAYING AT.

WASN'T SHE SUPPOSED TO MEET ME HERE AT SIX?

YAY YAY YAY! ♡

WHAT THE HECK?

"I'M SO SORRY, YOU MADE ME A FULL BRIGADE MEMBER, YET..." SHE SAID. SHE WAS ALMOST CRYING.

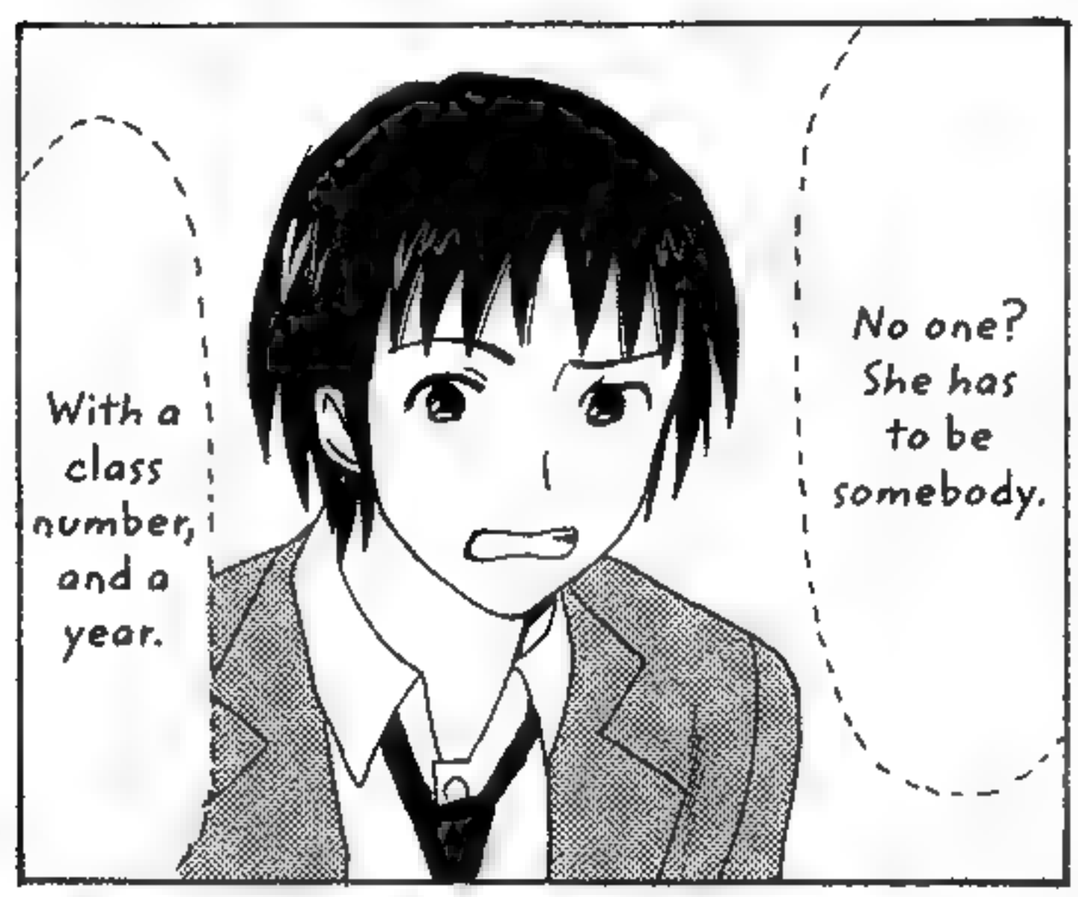
ONLY THAT SHE WAS GOING TO SKIP CLUB ACTIVITIES TODAY.

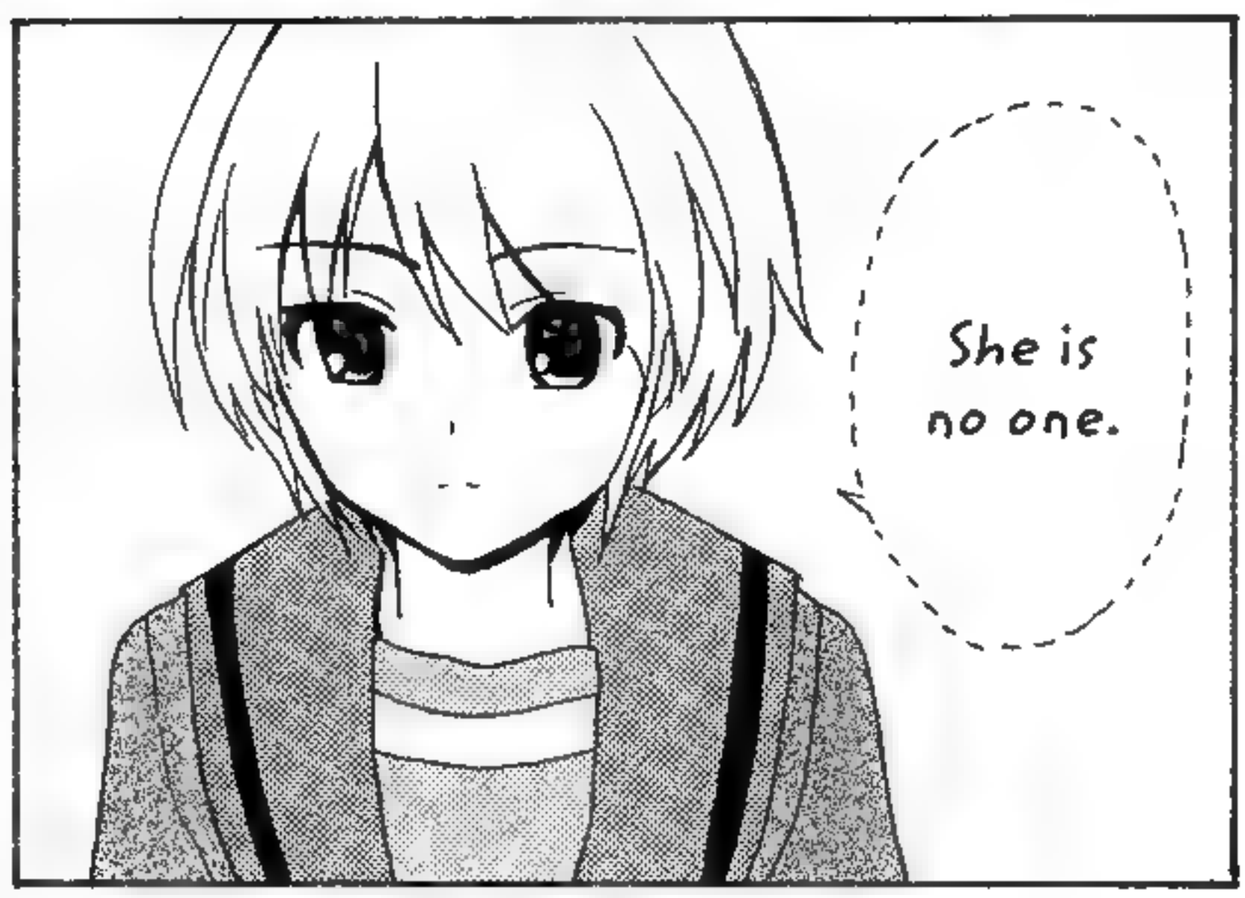
HARUHI.

DID YOU HEAR ANY-THING?

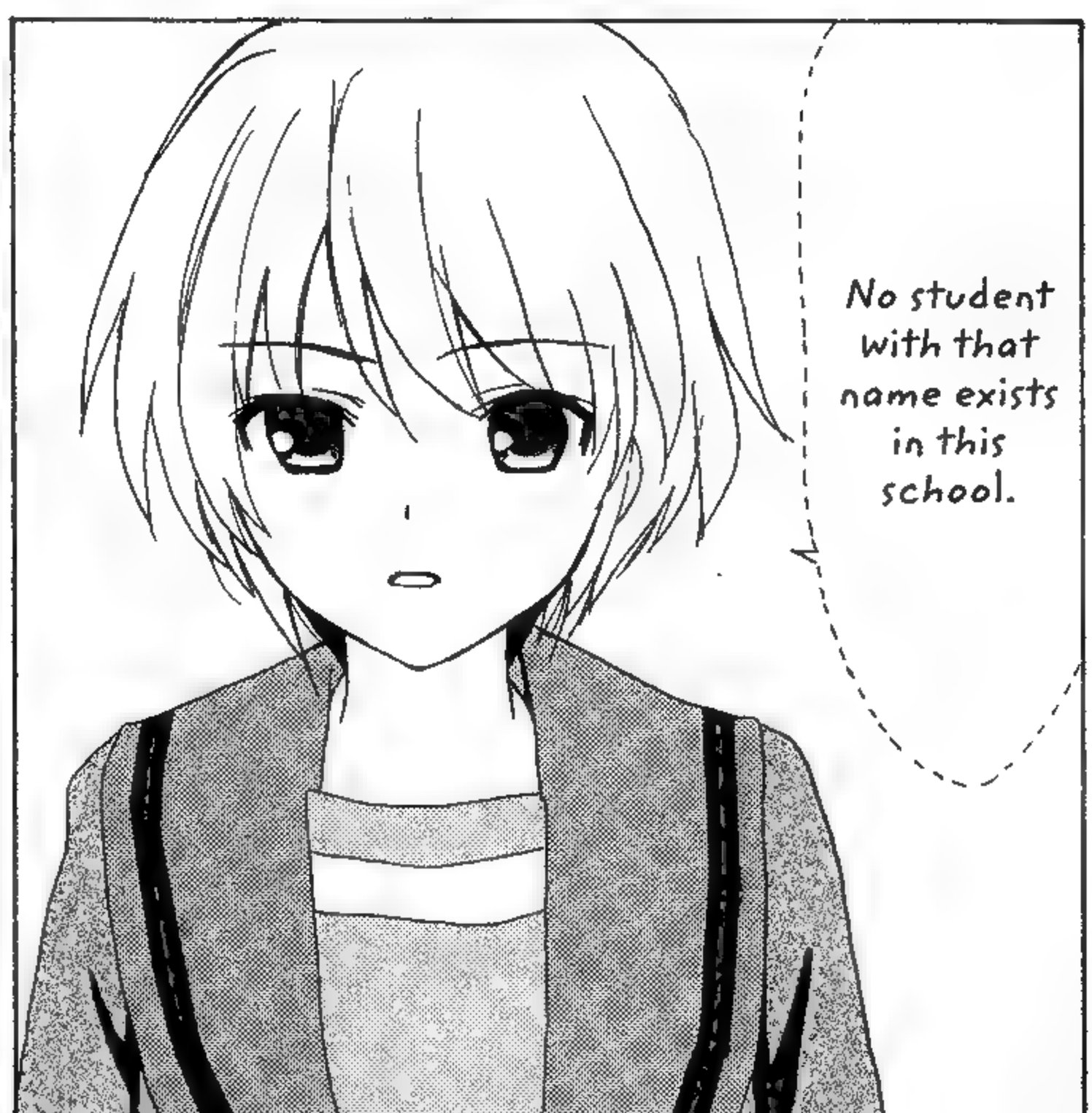
Nagato.
Who is Yasumi Watahashi?

SIX O'CLOCK... WHERE'S SHE GOING TO BE UNTIL THEN?
WHAT IS SHE PLAN-NING TO DO?


No one? She has to be somebody.
With a class number, and a year.


She is no one.

Doesn't exist?
So that means, um...
Oh, right.


No student with that name exists in this school.

GOOD GRIEF. SO SHE IS GOING TO BE HARD TO DEAL WITH.

SHE WAS OBVIOUSLY WEIRD, I GUESS.

That is a logical conclusion.

Someone's posing as a North High student and sneaking in just for after-school activities.

So it's an alias.

Time travelers? Espers?

No.

Aliens?

No.

So who's controlling her?

NAGATO OFFERING AN ELABORATION? THAT'S RARE.

YASUMI-CHAN BROUGHT IT IN.

So she's just randomly posing as a North High student?

HEY.

WHERE'D THIS FLOWER COME FROM?

Nor is she from another world.

WHAT?

IT HAS BEEN DETERMINED THAT SUCH IS THE BEST COURSE OF ACTION.

I CANNOT SAY ANYTHING.

NOT RIGHT NOW.

RE-FUSING ME?

NAGATO REFUSING?

BUT THAT'S NOT ALL.

SHE SAID IT WAS REALLY RARE, SO WE SHOULD KEEP IT IN THE CLUB ROOM.

LIKE A TREASURE.

THIS IS THE FIRST TIME NAGATO HAS EXPRESSED RESERVES LIKE "FOR NOW."

OPERATING IN RESTRICTED SPACE, THE POSSIBILITY EXISTS THAT ACTING IN IGNORANCE CAN BE MORE EFFECTIVE.

...THAT LETTER .....

DEPENDING ON TIME AND CIRCUMSTANCES ...

THE REASONING THAT IT WILL RESULT IN A HIGHER PROBABILITY OF A FAVORABLE OUTCOME IS MINE.

THIS— SURELY THIS FORETELLS CALAMITY.

WHO DECIDED THAT?

AND I'M THE IGNORANT ONE, HUH?

ON THE CONTRARY— IT CAN BE INFERRED THAT SHE WISHES TO BE OF USE TO YOU.

SHE MEANS YOU NO HARM.

YOU MAY GO.

THE SURPRISE OF HARUHI SUZUMIYA IX : END

CUP: TEA

The Melancholy of Haruhi Suzumiya

THE SURPRISE OF HARUHI SUZUMIYA X
α—11
WELL... I AM THE ONE WHO TOLD HER TO BRING SOMETHING INTERESTING.
A FLOWER?
MAYBE FOR YASUMI-CHAN THIS FLOWER'S REALLY INTEREST-ING.
INDEED! SUCH DECISIVE FOLLOW-UP MEANS THAT SHE'S GOT THE HEART OF A TRUE BRIGADE MEMBER.
MY BRIGADE ENTRANCE EXAM DIDN'T LIE! LOOKS LIKE IT REALLY IDENTIFIED HER DISTIN-GUISHING ATTRI-BUTES!
BAN (WHAM)

C'MON, KYON, IT'S TIME TO GO!
HURRY UP!

FOR EXAMPLE, THE FLOWER SHE'D LEFT AT LUNCH.

THE PAST FEW DAYS, MY STRANGE-HAPPENINGS SENSOR HAD BEEN PINGING CONSTANTLY.

I REALLY DON'T THINK HARUHI IS EXACTLY WELCOMING YASUMI WITH OPEN ARMS.

DID HARUHI REALLY LIKE THE FLOWER YASUMI HAD LEFT THERE?

I DOUBTED IT.

IN A WORD, SHE WAS CONFUSED.

THE AN-SWER WAS NO.

SO DID SHE ACTUALLY FIND YASUMI'S INTRODUC-TION TO THE CLUB TO BE AN UNPLEASANT DEVELOP-MENT?

TRUTHFULLY, I FEEL THE SAME WAY.
CALL IT A SORT OF INDISTINCT MYSTERY.

HARUHI'S EVALUATION OF YASUMI WAS A COMPLICATED ONE.
AND SHE HAD YET TO COME UP WITH A SATISFACTORY ANSWER.

KOIZUMI.
THAT FLOWER WASN'T WOLFSBANE, RIGHT?

WHEN'D YOU TAKE THAT PICTURE?
AT A GLANCE, IT LOOKED LIKE A VARIETY OF ORCHID.
I WAS CERTAINLY A BIT INTERESTED IN IT, THOUGH.
HOPEFULLY MY GUESS IS WRONG.

PAKA (FLIP)
NO, NO, IT'S NOT A POISONOUS FLOWER.

TWO YEARS... THAT'S RIGHT.

ON THE OTHER HAND, ASAHINA-SAN SEEMS TO ADORE YASUMI.

WHAT WOULD HAPPEN TO ASAHINA-SAN A YEAR FROM NOW?

PERHAPS SHE HAD A SPECIAL FONDNESS FOR A JUNIOR TWO YEARS UNDER HER.

COME TO THINK OF IT, NEITHER HARUHI NOR I WERE EXACTLY MODEL UNDER-CLASSMEN.

ぎゅっ。 GYU (HUG)

...CRAP.

WHAT WOULD BECOME OF THE TIME TRAV-ELERS' TOOL THEN?

WOULD ANOTHER TEA-SERVING MAID ARRIVE? AND FROM THE FUTURE, AGAIN?

I JUST REMEMBERED I BORROWED A DIRTY MAGAZINE FROM TANIGUCHI.

I LEFT SOMETHING IN THE CLASSROOM.
OH, OOPS.

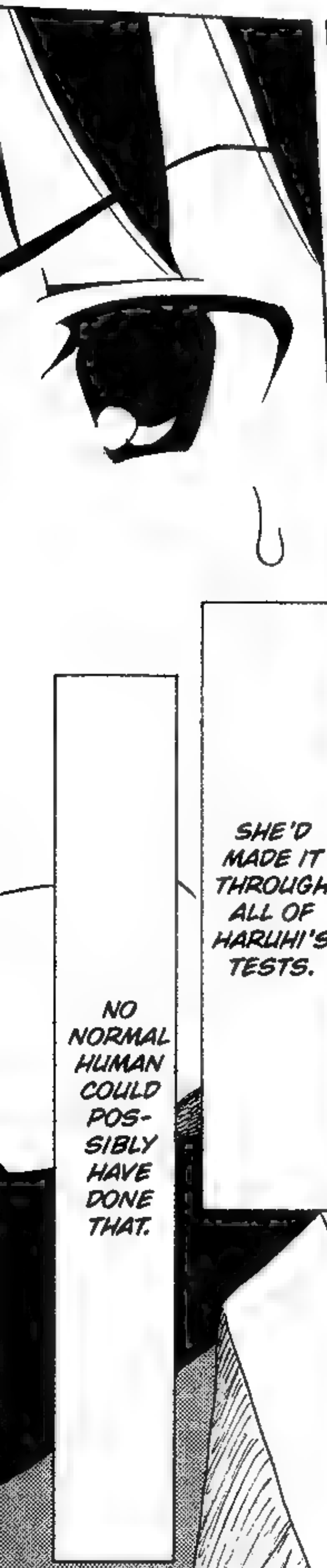
HEH HEH HEH.
IT'S, LIKE, A SUPER-VALUABLE RAG TOO.
IF ANYBODY FINDS IT, I'LL BE IN TROUBLE.

DON'T TALK ABOUT DIRTY BOOKS IN FRONT OF MAIDENS LIKE US!
DA (DASH)
STUPID KYON!
BYE!
I'M HEADING BACK TO THE CLASSROOM.
YOU DON'T HAVE TO WAIT UP.

I SHOULD'VE COME UP WITH A BETTER EXCUSE.
TA (TMP)
BUT NO, THIS IS GOOD.
IT WOULD'VE BEEN BAD IF HARUHI HAD COME WITH ME.
TA
ANYWAY, I HAVE TO GET RID OF THIS SENTI-MENTALITY.
IT'S NOT LIKE ME.
TA
TA
ESPECIALLY WITH THIS IMPORTANT (?) MEETING COMING UP.
BAN (BANG)

WHAT DO YOU WANT WITH ME?

IT'S SIX O'CLOCK, YASUMI WATA-HASHI!



NO NORMAL HUMAN COULD POS-SIBLY HAVE DONE THAT.

SHE'D MADE IT THROUGH ALL OF HARUHI'S TESTS.

I BELIEVED IT— THAT THINGS WOULD TURN OUT THIS WAY.

AND I WANT TO BELIEVE IN WHAT'S GOING TO HAPPEN NEXT.

I KNEW YOU'D COME.

THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR COMING, SENPAI.

I'LL TAKE ALL MY ANSWERS UP FRONT, THANKS.
WHAT DOES THAT MEAN?
WHAT'S GOING TO HAPPEN?
YOU BELIEVE IN WHAT'S GOING TO HAPPEN NEXT?

I DON'T KNOW EITHER.
BUT WE'LL FIND OUT SOON.

KO (CLACK)
KO
KO
KO
KO

WHAT DO YOU MEAN...
...YOU DON'T KNOW?

KON
(KNOCK)
KON
KON
KON
KON
KNOCKING!? ANOTHER VISITOR!?
KON
KON
OR DID SHE CALL THEM HERE TOO...!?
HOW DID SHE KNOW SOMEONE WAS COMING AFTER ME?
...WHAT IS SHE?
KON
KON

β—11

CHUN (CHIRP)

CHUN

FRI-DAY...

BUT WHATEVER HAPPENS AFTER SCHOOL MAY DECIDE BOTH MY FATE AND THE SOS BRIGADE'S.

URGH

I'M GRATEFUL FOR THE WEEKEND'S APPROACH.

WAKE UP!

I WOULD NEED TO BE MORE AWAKE, BOTH PHYSICALLY AND MENTALLY.

A RENDEZ-VOUS WITH SASAKI AND HER ROTTEN FRIENDS AWAITED ME.

I HAVE TO SETTLE THINGS WITH KUYOH SUOH.
FOR WHAT PURPOSE HAD THE EXTRATERRESTRIAL FORCED NAGATO INTO BED REST?
I HAVE TO SETTLE THINGS WITH FUJIWARA.
WHY DID THAT TIME TRAVELER COME HERE?
DID THE FAKE ESPER REALLY WANT TO INSTALL SASAKI AS THE TRUE GOD...?
I HAVE TO SETTLE THINGS WITH KYOKO TACHIBANA.
SOMETHING HUGE, FAR LARGER THAN BEFORE.
I DON'T KNOW.
BUT SOMETHING IS DEFINITELY GOING TO HAPPEN AFTER SCHOOL TODAY.

YOU SHOWED UP LIKE YOU PROMISED.

THANKS.

HEY.

AFTER SCHOOL, AT THE RENDEZ-VOUS POINT.

KUYOH'S NOT HERE.

SASAKI.

TACHIBANA, AND THE TIME TRAVELER.

SEEMS KINDA HALF-BAKED...

THAT SO?

BUT IF SHE'S NEEDED, SHE'LL APPEAR.

I COULDN'T CONTACT HER.

PERA

IT'S ENOUGH TO MAKE ME WISH I NEVER HAD TO DEAL WITH HER AGAIN.

PERA

WHETHER OR NOT ANYONE WANTS HER TO.

MUST BE NICE TO HAVE THAT KIND OF FREEDOM.

EARTH DOESN'T BELONG TO ALIENS...

PERA

PERA (BLAB)

SHE'LL COME... SHE WILL.

UH, ER...

WHAT'S UP WITH HIM? HIS EXPRESSION'S SO STIFF.

I'VE ARRANGED FOR A TAXI.

SHALL WE DEPART?

THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR COMING TODAY.

NORTH PREFECTURAL HIGH SCHOOL.

WHERE TO?

THERE'S NO NEED TO TURN SUCH A TRIVIALITY INTO AN ADVENTURE.

THIS TOO IS A FIXED EVENT.

HMPH.

I JUST GOT HERE...

WE'RE JUST GOING RIGHT BACK?

SHUT UP.

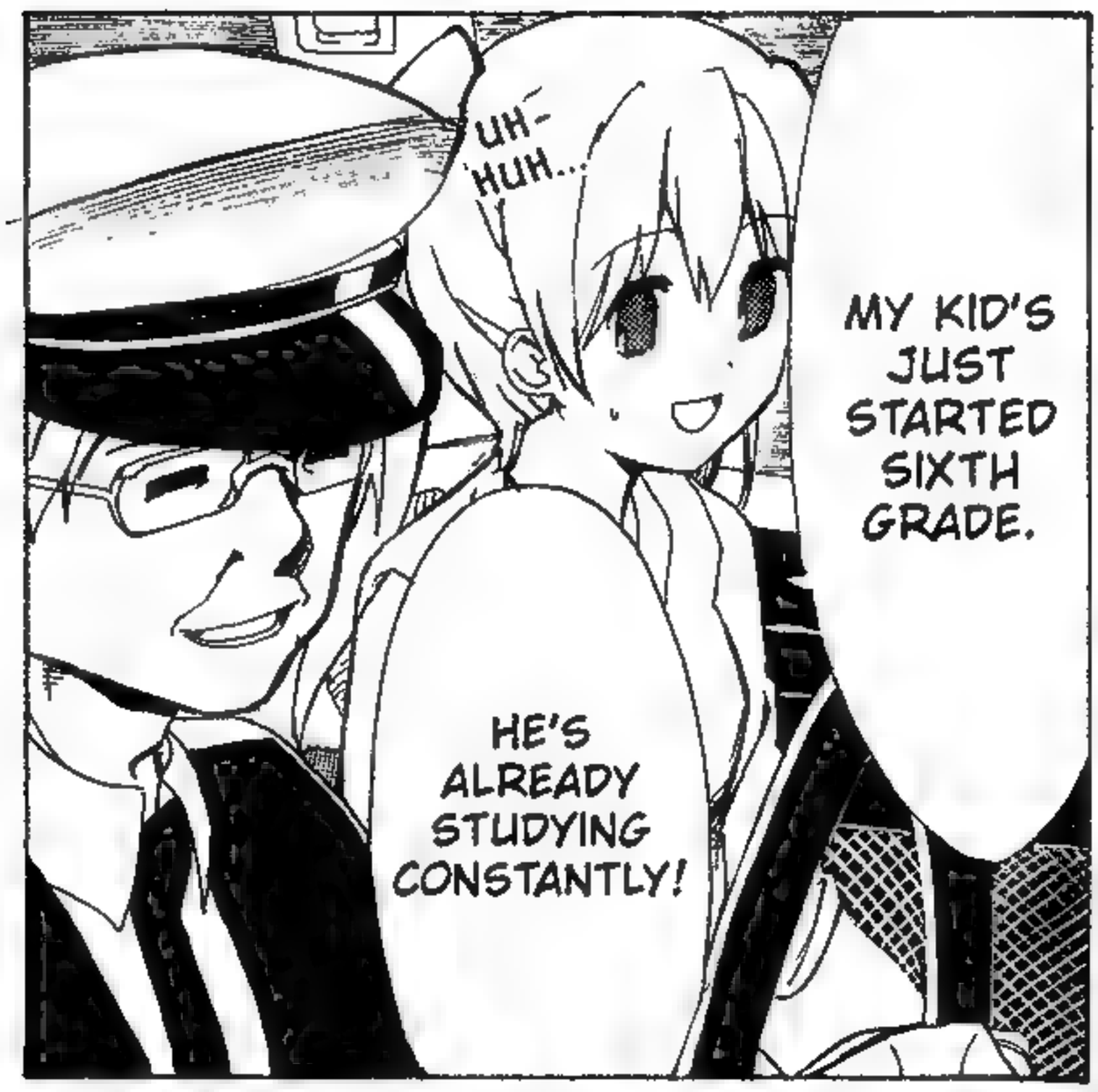
...

THAT'S RIGHT.

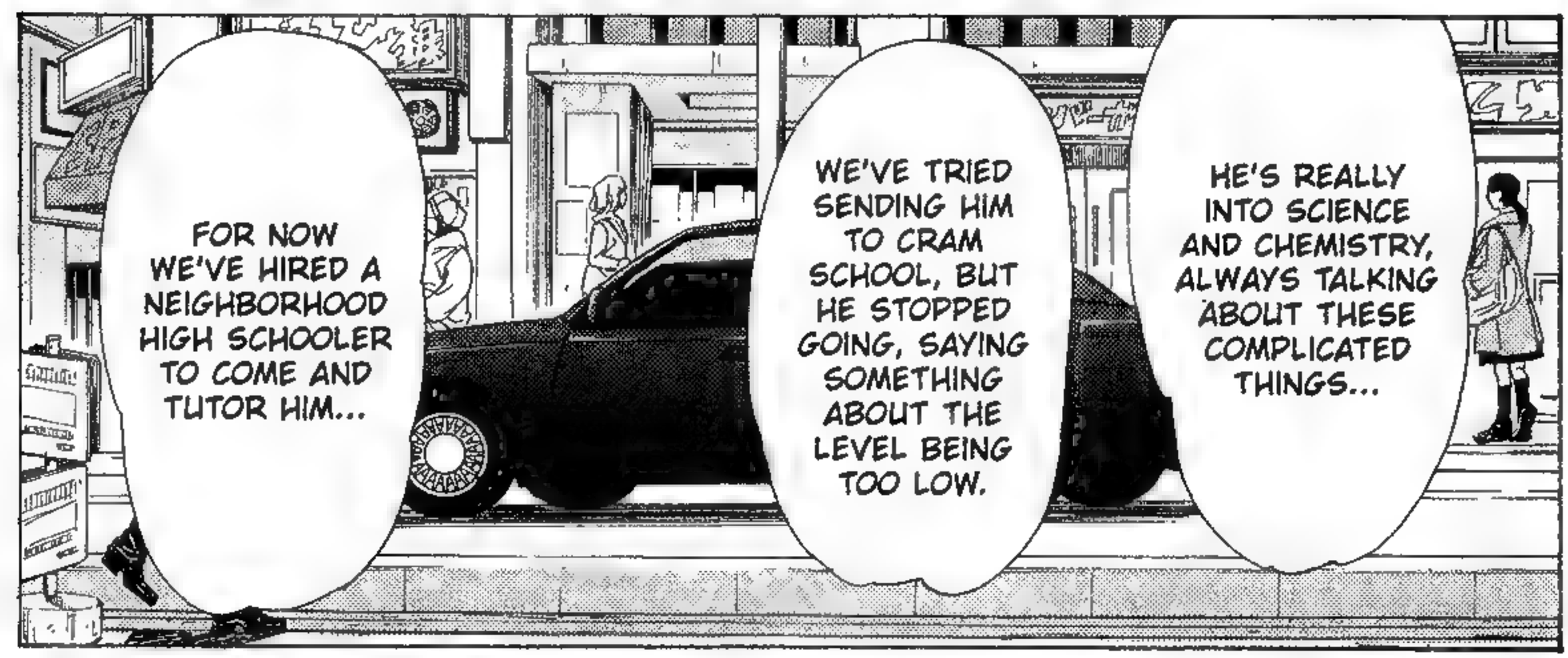
YOU'VE BEEN RATHER ABUSED BY THE WHIMS OF TIME TRAVELERS, HAVEN'T YOU?

UUUU (VRMM)

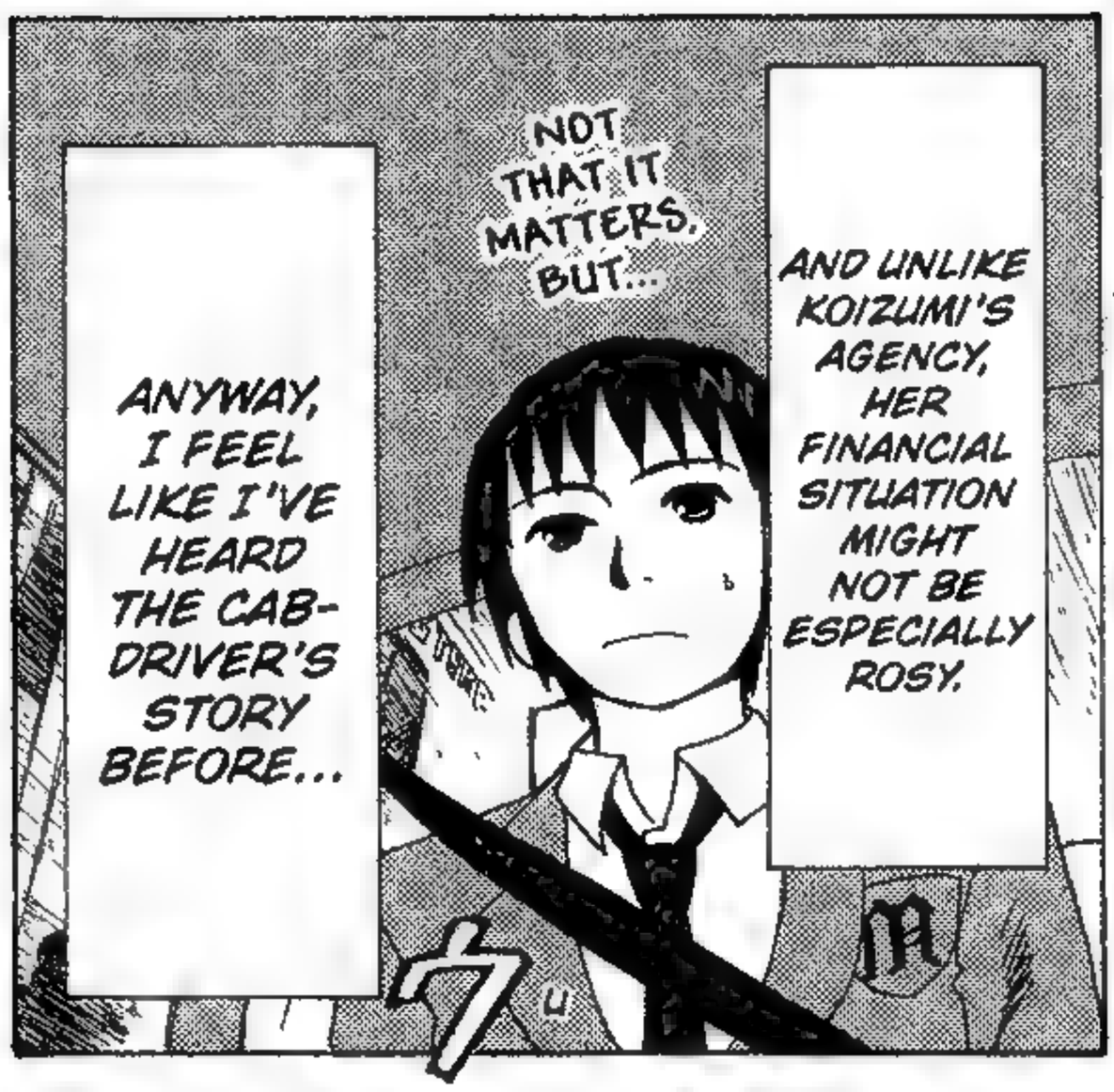
A FIXED EVENT, EH? SO THE FOUR OF US GETTING IN A TAXI AND GOING TO NORTH HIGH IS A MATTER OF HISTORICAL FACT?


UH-HUH...
MY KID'S JUST STARTED SIXTH GRADE.
HE'S ALREADY STUDYING CONSTANTLY!

SO, YOU GUYS IN HIGH SCHOOL? NICE TO BE YOUNG!


FOR NOW WE'VE HIRED A NEIGHBORHOOD HIGH SCHOOLER TO COME AND TUTOR HIM...
WE'VE TRIED SENDING HIM TO CRAM SCHOOL, BUT HE STOPPED GOING, SAYING SOMETHING ABOUT THE LEVEL BEING TOO LOW.
HE'S REALLY INTO SCIENCE AND CHEMISTRY, ALWAYS TALKING ABOUT THESE COMPLICATED THINGS...

THE TUTOR KINDA TAKES A HANDS-OFF APPROACH, AND I JUST DON'T KNOW WHAT TO DO...
LIKE DOODLES, ALMOST.
IF HE'S GOT A NOTEBOOK HE'S ALWAYS WRITING FIGURES AND EQUATIONS INTO IT...
HAW HAW HAW!
BUT HIS SCHOOL GRADES JUST WON'T GO UP.
FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE, LOOKS LIKE WE'VE GOT A CHATTY CABBIE.


ANYWAY, I FEEL LIKE I'VE HEARD THE CAB-DRIVER'S STORY BEFORE...
NOT THAT IT MATTERS, BUT...
AND UNLIKE KOIZUMI'S AGENCY, HER FINANCIAL SITUATION MIGHT NOT BE ESPECIALLY ROSY.

OH, IS THAT SO?
BUUU (VRMMMM)
TAXI
UNLIKE KOIZUMI, SHE PROBABLY HAD TO PAY FOR THE CAB OUT OF HER OWN POCKET.

WE JUST HAVE TO CONFIRM SOMETHING.
IT'S NOT A TRAP.
IS THIS SOME KIND OF TRAP?

THOSE ARE PERFECTLY REASONABLE QUESTIONS, FUJIWARA-KUN, BUT...

BUT OF COURSE THAT POSSIBILITY HAS BEEN ACCOUNTED FOR.
THERE MAY NOT BE ANYONE THERE...
I JUST KNOW WHAT WE HAVE TO DO.
THIS IS BOTH THE PLAN AND THE RESULT.
I DON'T KNOW WHAT IT MEANS EITHER.

BUT I'LL BET YOU'RE NOT USED TO RIDING AROUND IN PETROLEUM-BASED INTERNAL COMBUSTION ENGINE-POWERED VEHICLES LIKE THIS ONE, ARE YOU?

I CAN ONLY GUESS AT WHAT YOUR FUTURE WORLD IS LIKE.

I'M STARTING TO WONDER IF YOU JUST DON'T LIKE RIDING IN CARS VERY MUCH.

THERE ARE SIMPLY ADVANCED HOPES I HAVE FOR THE FUTURE, THAT'S ALL.

NOTHING AT ALL.

WHAT OF IT?

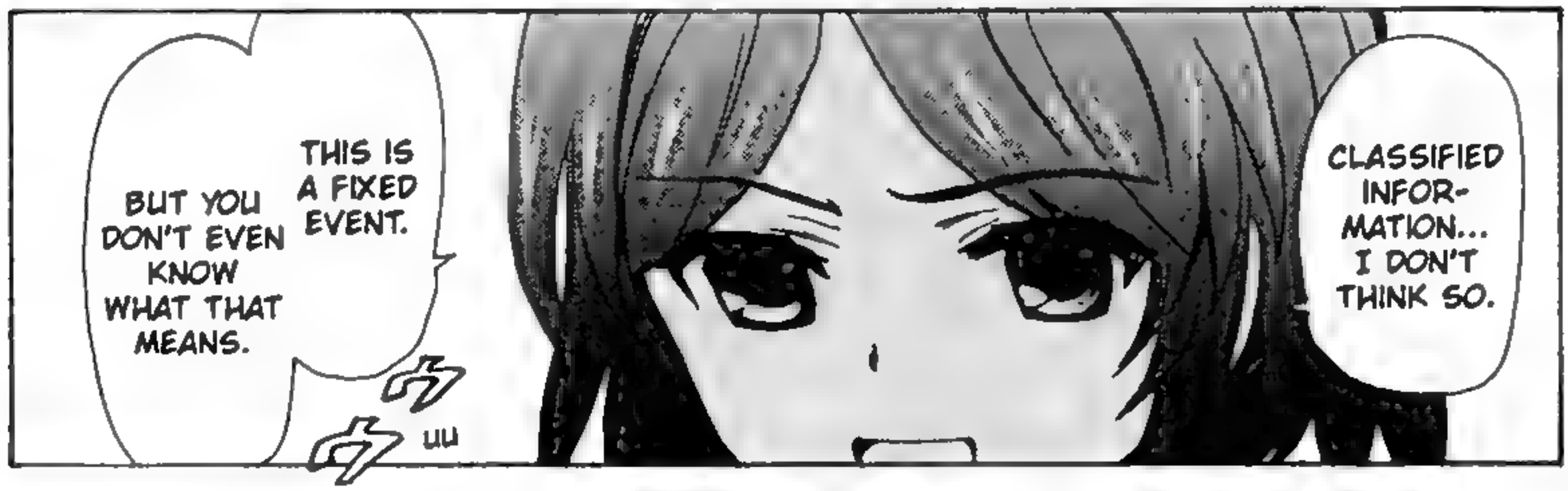
HOPE FOR WHAT YOU LIKE.

WISH FOR WHAT YOU LIKE.

I HOPE THAT SOME OF THEM HAVE BEEN SOLVED IN THE FUTURE...

THIS WORLD IS BESET BY ALL SORTS OF PROB-LEMS.

BEYOND THAT...HEH, I SUPPOSE IT'S CLASSIFIED.
THAT HOPE OF YOURS MADE THE FUTURE...
...ALONG WITH YOUR RECKLESSLY MISPLACED CONFIDENCE.
UU (VRRM)


BUT YOU DON'T EVEN KNOW WHAT THAT MEANS.
THIS IS A FIXED EVENT.
UU
CLASSIFIED INFOR-MATION... I DON'T THINK SO.

IF YOU WERE OTHERWISE, YOU WOULDN'T BE QUALIFIED TO ACT AS OUR INSTRUMENT.
IMPRES-SIVE.

U
ALL YOU KNOW IS THAT IT'S BEEN SPECIFIED IN ADVANCE THAT YOU HAVE TO GO TO NORTH HIGH.
SO HOW COULD YOU EVEN ANSWER?

BUT IT'S NOT OUR HABIT TO OPPOSE FIXED EVENTS, SO.....

YOU'LL UNDER-STAND SOON ENOUGH.

YOU'RE ESSENTIALLY SUPER-FLUOUS.

WHAT DO YOU MEAN, "INSTRU-MENT"?

THIS IS THE FIRST I'VE HEARD OF THAT.

GRR...

...HEY, FUJI-WARA.

SO WE CALLED YOU ALONG TOO.

JUST SIT BACK AND ENJOY YOUR ROLE AS THE BY-STANDER.

ARE YOU TRYING TO CHANGE THE FUTURE YOU'RE FROM?

YOU KNOW THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE, RIGHT?

DOODLING ON ONE PAGE OF A FLIPBOOK ANIMATION WON'T CHANGE THE ENDING.

IF YOU SHOOT OFF YOUR MOUTH ANY MORE...
...
"PROHIBITION" WON'T BE ENOUGH TO PROTECT YOU.
JUST SHUT UP, YOU RELIC.

HIS COLD VOICE MADE ME SHIVER.

UU (VRMM)

FUJIWARA WAS SERIOUS.

GUESS I STEPPED ON ONE OF HIS LAND MINES.

RURURU (BRMMM)

TAXI

HA (GASP)

CLOSED SPACE!?

THE TOTAL OPPOSITE OF HARUHI'S...

BAN (BAM)

I WONDER ABOUT THAT.

WE STILL HAVEN'T ARRIVED AT OUR FINAL DESTINATION.

...A TRAP!

YOUR REALITY, YOUR SENSE OF HOW THE WORLD WORKS—SUCH THINGS DO NOT APPLY HERE.

SHE'S THE REASON WE SUCCEEDED IN BRINGING YOU ALL THE WAY HERE.

I'LL HAVE TO THANK SASAKI.

WE'LL NEED HER TO WORK FOR US AFTER THIS.

OF COURSE ...

ONCE THAT'S TAKEN CARE OF, YOU'LL ALL BE FREE TO GO.

AND THEN YOU CAN FLIRT WITH HER ALL YOU WANT.

I DOUBT SHE KNOWS SHE WAS BEING MANIPULATED INTO DOING THAT.

ドタ TA (DASH)

LET'S GO, SHALL WE?

WOULD YOU BE SATISFIED IF I SAID THANK YOU?

FUJIWARA, YOU BETTER APPRECIATE MY SELF-CONTROL.

β—12

TO THAT SHABBY LITTLE ROOM YOU CALL YOUR HOME BASE.

WITHIN IT EXISTS THE GATEWAY TO EVERY POSSIBILITY.

IT'S THE KEY TO THE FUTURE, A PLACE WHERE EACH POWER HAS MET, COMBINED, AND INFLUENCED EACH OTHER.

THE SOURCE OF EVERYTHING IS IN THAT ROOM.

I SUPPOSE IT MIGHT BE HARD FOR AN ARCHAIC HUMAN LIKE YOU TO UNDERSTAND.

THE PROCESSES OF BOTH PROGRESS AND STAGNATION ARE SIMULTANEOUSLY EXTANT, THERE.

KO (CLACK)

OR PERHAPS YOU COULD CALL IT A WEDGE.

KO

DON'T WANT TO EITHER.

YEAH, I DON'T GET IT.

KO

WHA... HUH?

NO, I...

KO

KO

TACHIBANA.

YOU KNEW THIS, AND YOU BROUGHT ME HERE?

THAT ROOM HAD LONG-SINCE BECOME ITS OWN SPECIAL DIMENSION.
WITH ALL THE DIFFERENT ELEMENTS AND POWERS THAT HAD MET, CLASHED, AND ANNIHILATED EACH OTHER THERE, IT MIGHT EVEN BE NORMAL, IN A WAY.
LIKE IT HAD REACHED A SATURATION POINT.
THIS IS FUJIWARA'S SCENARIO... WITH KUYOH BACKING HIM UP.
KYOKO TACHIBANA DOESN'T KNOW ANYTHING.
FOR THE SAKE OF OUR FUTURE.
SHALL WE GO, THEN?
AND SETTLE ALL OF THIS.

TO (TAP)
HEY, FUJIWARA ...
THERE'S SOME-ONE...
... INSIDE!
KO (KNOCK)

KON

KON (KNOCK)

KON

KON

KON

α—12

THE SURPRISE OF HARUHI SUZUMIYA X : END

KON
KON
KON
WHO'S ON THE OTHER SIDE...?
SOMEONE'S KNOCKING HARD ON THE DOOR.
CHA (CHK)
KO (CLACK)
DOES SHE KNOW WHO'S ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE DOOR...?
WHAT'S WITH HER?
YASUMI WATAHASHI SEEMS STRANGELY SATISFIED.
KO

α—13

β—13
NO, WHO ARE YOU...?

STRANGE.
THIS PLACE WAS SUPPOSED TO BE SUFFUSED WITH THE SAME FAINT LIGHT THAT PERMEATED ALL CLOSED SPACE.
WHAT'S GOING ON HERE ...?
SO WHY WAS THE SUN PUTTING ON SUCH A GRAND DISPLAY OF A SUNSET?
WHERE'S KUYOH, HE WANTS TO KNOW?
WAS THIS FUJIWARA AND TACHI-BANA'S PLAN?
AND WHO ARE THESE TWO ...?
WHERE IS KUYOH SUOH?

WHO ARE YOU?
IT'S ME! IT'S UNMISTAKABLY ANOTHER ME!

JUST MY OWN SELF, FROM EXACTLY THIS MOMENT.

NOT FROM THE PAST, OR THE FUTURE.

I CAN'T TAKE MY EYES OFF OF "ME."

WHO IS THIS?

IT'S ME, MYSELF.

SUU (SHF)

...WHAT THE HELL IS GOING ON HERE?

THE OTHER ME LOOKS JUST AS CONFUSED AS I AM.

HE'S PROBABLY WONDERING...

SENPAI!
WHO... ARE YOU?
HEE HEE.
I AM WATA-HASHI.
FUWA (LIFT)

I DON'T KNOW EITHER. BUT WE'LL FIND OUT SOON.

THIS IS EARTH! NOT SOME PLAYGROUND FOR ALIENS!

HOW ABSURD... HA-HA...

YUKI, IT'S ME. EVERY-BODY'S HERE TO CHECK IN ON YOU.

DIDN'T YOU KNOW? KOIZUMI-SAN CREATED THE AGENCY FROM THE GROUND UP.

I'LL DO ANYTHING YOU TELL ME TO DO!

IT WOULD BE FUNDA-MENTALLY IMPOSSIBLE FOR ANY HUMAN.

GOING TO SLEEP FOR A BIT.

DEFINE "DATA OVERMIND." ANSWER.

I NOW PROCLAIM THE SECOND PHASE OF THE SOS BRIGADE ENTRANCE EXAMINATION OPEN!

THE PROBLEM THAT WE'RE FACING MAY BE TO SIMPLY PROVE OUR REASON FOR EXISTENCE.

NO STUDENT WITH THAT NAME EXISTS IN THIS SCHOOL.

IT'S CALLED ROOIBOS TEA!

I AM WATAHASHI.

MY DIRECTIVES PREVENT ANY DEVIATION.

LISTEN, KYON. THIS STORY BELONGS TO YOU AND ME.

I FOUND THE MIKURU FOLDER!

THERE'S ONLY ONE PERSON BOTH SUZUMIYA-SAN AND I CHOSE. AND THAT'S YOU.

AH...

BOTH WERE TRUE, REAL MEMORIES.

TWO VERSIONS OF MY MEMORIES OF THE PAST WEEK NOW EXISTED WITHIN ME.

IT WASN'T A QUESTION OF WHICH WAS TRUE AND WHICH WAS FALSE.

UGH...

NGH...

WHAT IS THIS...?

ttt PG 44

ttt PG 44

ttt PG 44

AND NOW BOTH OF THEM WERE PERFECTLY ALIGNED IN MY HEAD.

WHAT WAS THIS?

THE ONLY THING I COULD CONCLUDE WAS THAT I MYSELF HAD SPLIT AND EXPERIENCED THE SAME TIMELINE TWICE.

SHOULDN'T I HAVE BEEN MORE CONFUSED?

I UNDERSTOOD SO WELL THAT I DIDN'T UNDERSTAND AT ALL.

WHERE DID THEY GO?

IN THE CASE OF "ME," I UNDERSTOOD IMMEDIATELY.

THEY'RE GONE.

THE OTHER ME AND YASUMI WATAHASHI HAVE BOTH VANISHED.

BA (WHIP)

WAS THAT YASUMI?

BOTH ME AND THE OTHER "ME" HAD BEEN FUSED INTO ONE.

WE'D ORIGINALLY BEEN ONE INDIVIDUAL, BUT SOMETHING HAD CAUSED US TO SPLIT.

FUSION.

THAT'S THE FIRST I'VE HEARD OF IT!

A NON-STANDARD ABNORMALITY THAT'S NOT ON THE SCHEDULE?

WHO CALLED HER HERE?

WHO COULD POSSIBLY ...?

IT CAN'T BE...WAS THERE SOMEONE WHO RELEASED THE PROHIBITION AHEAD OF ME...?

DEFYING THE CHAIN OF FIXED EVENTS ...?

TA (DASH)

TA

WHAT'S THAT!?

THUNDER?

GA

GA (KRAK)

(WHOOOO)

WHAT'S HAPPEN-ING...?

THE SKY WAS SWIRLING.

...COLORS INTERTWINING LIKE COLLIDING GALAXIES IN A BIZARRE DISPLAY.

THE FAINTLY GLOWING CREAM-COLORED CANOPY WAS INTERRUPTED BY AN ANGRY BLUE-GRAY SWIRL...

AND IT WASN'T JUST THE SKY.
HERE AND THERE, PALE LIGHT AND DARK GRAY TENDRILS WRIGGLED, AS THOUGH FIGHTING FOR CONTROL.
(WHOOO)
I COULD TELL THAT THIS WAS STILL THE PALELY-COLORED WORLD.
BUT WHAT WAS THAT OTHER COLOR?
I WAS STILL INSIDE THE CLOSED SPACE THAT SASAKI CREATED.
THE GRASS IN THE COURTYARD, THE LEAFED-OUT CHERRY TREES...
EVERYTHING WAS BEING DROWNED OUT IN THE TWO COLORS.
(OOOM)
HARUHI AND SASAKI WERE STRUGGLING WITH EACH OTHER, RIGHT HERE, RIGHT NOW.
IT WAS HARUHI'S CLOSED SPACE.

PAST AND FUTURE, AND EVEN THE PRESENT, DO NOT EXIST HERE.
MATTER.
PAR-TICLES.
THIS IS THE BEGINNING.
THE DIVISION POINT OF EVERY POSSIBLE OUTCOME.
WAVES, AND WILL. CONSCIOUS-NESS OF REALITY.
THE FUTURE BECOMES THE PAST, AND THE PAST, THE PRESENT...

IT REMINDS ME OF THE DATA JURISDICTION SPACE THAT ASAKURA CREATED.
GEOMETRIC PATTERNS FLICKER HERE AND THERE IN MY FIELD OF VISION.
KUYOH SUOH! WHEN DID SHE...?
DID YOU BETRAY ME!?
KUYOH.
WHAT'S GOING ON WITH THE WORLD?
WHO IN THE HELL...
...I SEE.
I CAN'T BELIEVE IT. SO IT'S ALREADY DIVERGED, HAS IT?
IT'S LIKE THERE'S ANOTHER WORLD...
SO WHAT IS THIS, THEN?
NO.
THAT IS THE AN-SWER.
I HAVE COME HERE.

THE ONE AND ONLY, IN THE FLESH. I WAS ACTUALLY HOPING TO MAKE A SLIGHTLY MORE DRAMATIC ENTRANCE, BUT THERE WASN'T TIME.

INDEED, IT IS ITSUKI KOIZUMI, JUST AS YOU SAY.

YOU SHOULDN'T BE ABLE TO ENTER IT!

THIS IS SASAKI'S CLOSED SPACE!

FEEL FREE TO LOOK OUT-SIDE.

UNFOR-TUNATELY ...

...AS FAR AS THIS SCHOOL IS CONCERNED, IT DOES NOT EXIST ONLY WITHIN THE WORLD YOU AND YOUR COMRADES CLOSED OFF.

WHAT'RE YOU DOING HERE!?

ASA-HINA-SAN!?

TEE HEE!

I GOT KOIZUMI-KUN TO BRING ME!

ALTHOUGH I REALLY WANTED TO POP OUT FROM THE BROOM CLOSET!

BA- (FWAP)

IT DOESN'T SEEM AS THOUGH YOU'RE OPERATING UNDER MANY RESTRICTIONS HERE, SO IF POSSIBLE I'D LIKE TO HAVE A NICE LONG CHAT.

YOUR TRUE FORM, I MEAN.

YOU SEEM WELL, THE PAST NOTWITH-STANDING.

I'M HONORED TO FINALLY MEET YOU.

KO (CLACK)

AS FAR AS THIS OPERATION GOES, I'M JUST A SINGLE PIECE OF IT.

IT WAS SPECIAL, TOP-LEVEL CLASSIFIED SECRET.

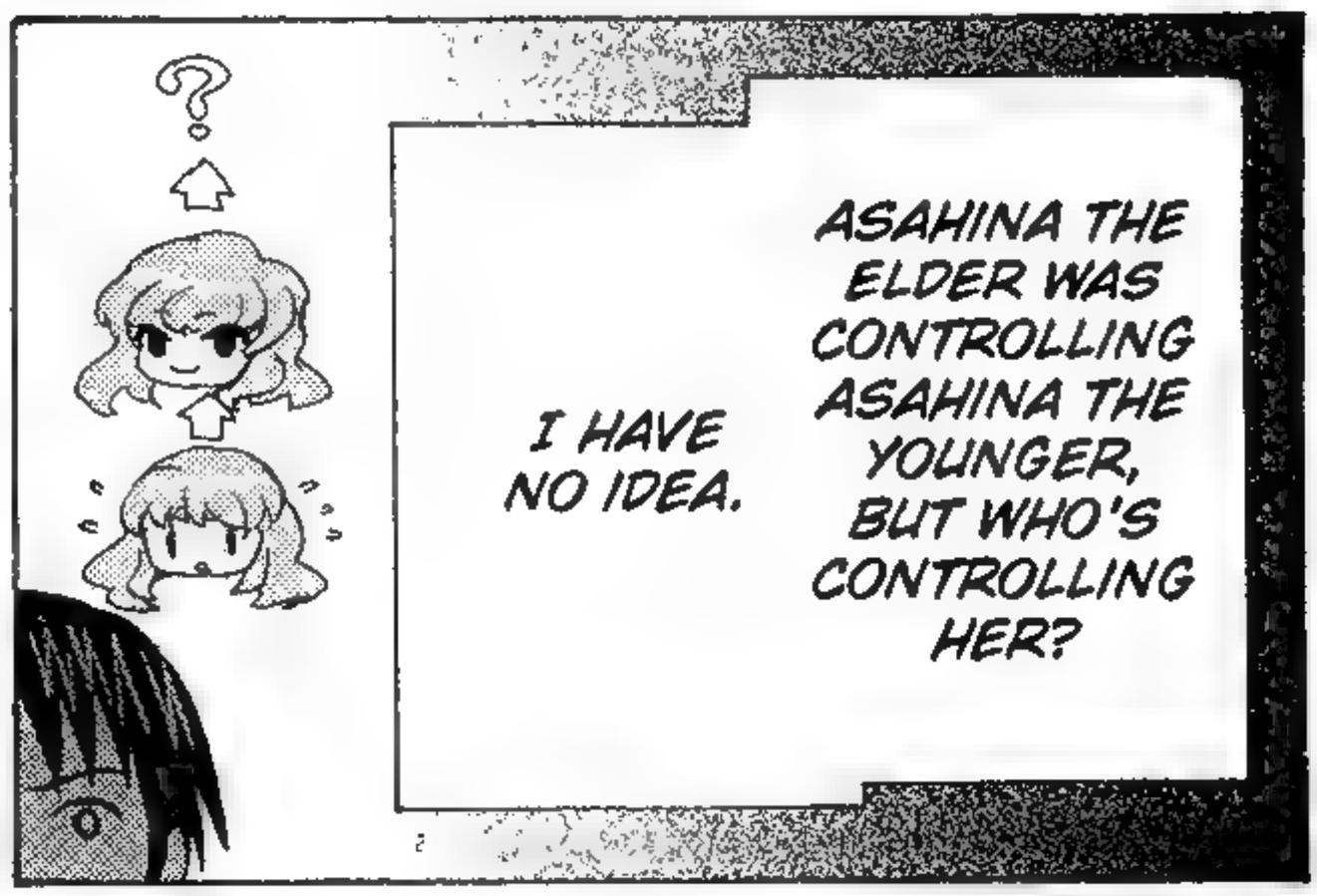
THAT'S NOT NECESSARILY TRUE.

FUU (WHEW)

THIS IS THE FIRST I'VE HEARD OF THIS, MYSELF.

WHICH KOIZUMI ARE YOU?

HEY, KOIZUMI.



ONE IS FROM THE VERSION OF HISTORY WHERE WE WERE BUSY WITH THE ENTRANCE EXAMINATIONS FOR NEW MEMBERS.

AH, PARDON ME. IT'S MERELY A CONVENIENT LABEL.

YOU SEEM AS THOUGH YOUR EXPECTATIONS HAVE BEEN SIGNIFICANTLY DISRUPTED.

AND SO THEY HAVE.

AND THE OTHER IS THE VERSION WHERE NAGATO FELL ILL, THROWING THE SOS BRIGADE INTO DYSFUNCTION.

BUT NONE OF YOU YET UNDERSTAND HARUHI SUZUMIYA.

WE CAN'T HAVE YOU UNDERESTIMATING US.

UNDOUBTEDLY YOU'VE DONE YOUR HOMEWORK AND PREPARED YOUR COUNTERMEASURES.

NOR A BARELY-COMPETENT ALIEN.

NOT BY A HALF-BAKED TIME-TRAVELER, NOR A SHABBY ESPER.

SUZUMIYA, OUR AWE-INSPIRING BRIGADE CHIEF, WILL NOT BE OUTSMARTED.

SHE MAY NOT BE A GOD.

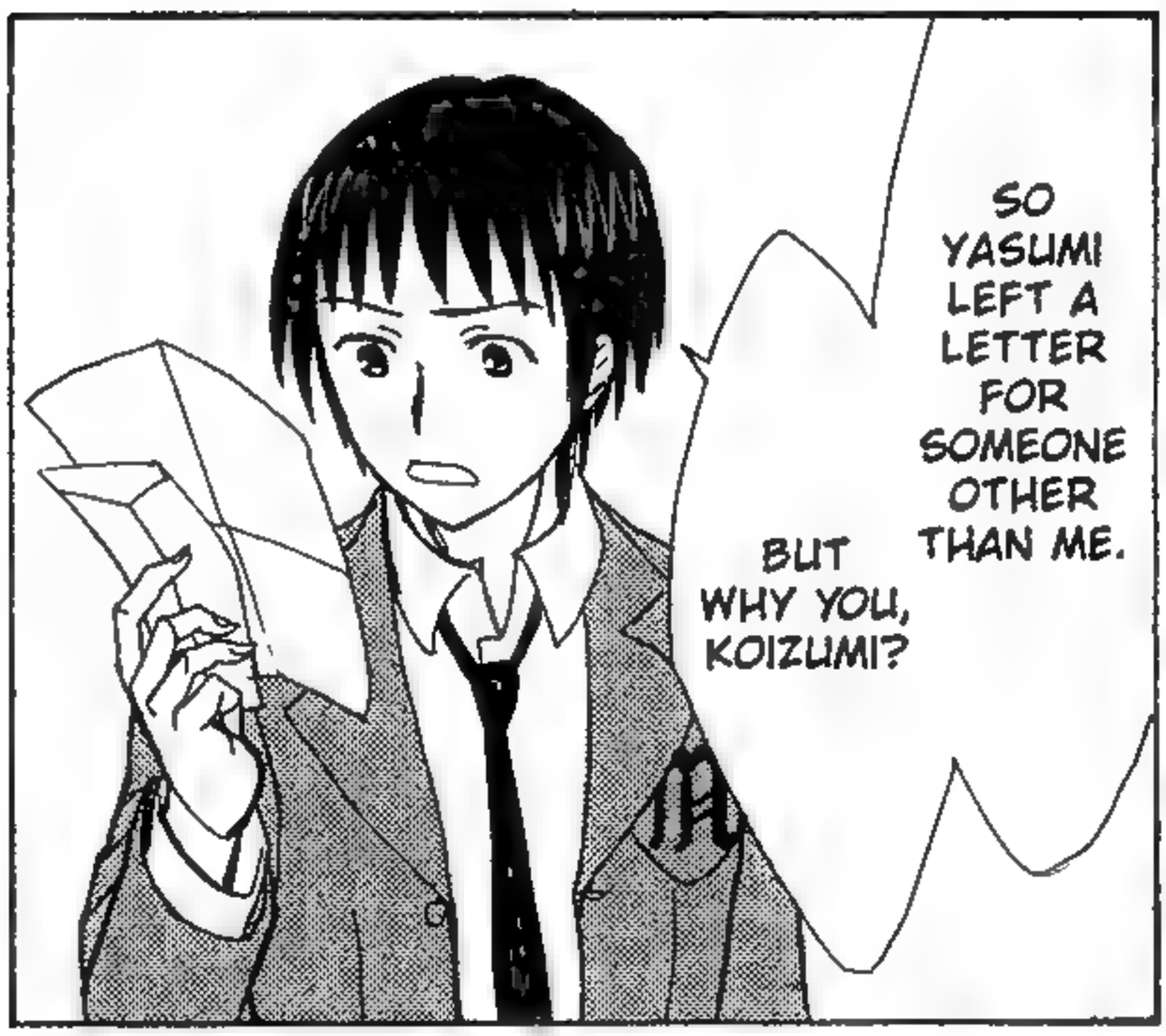
THIS MORNING, I FOUND THIS IN MY SHOE LOCKER. WOULD YOU LIKE TO READ IT?

PI (SNATCH)

...THAT EVEN GODLIKE ABILITIES CANNOT ANALYZE HER.

...SHE'S SUCH AN IRREGULAR HUMAN...

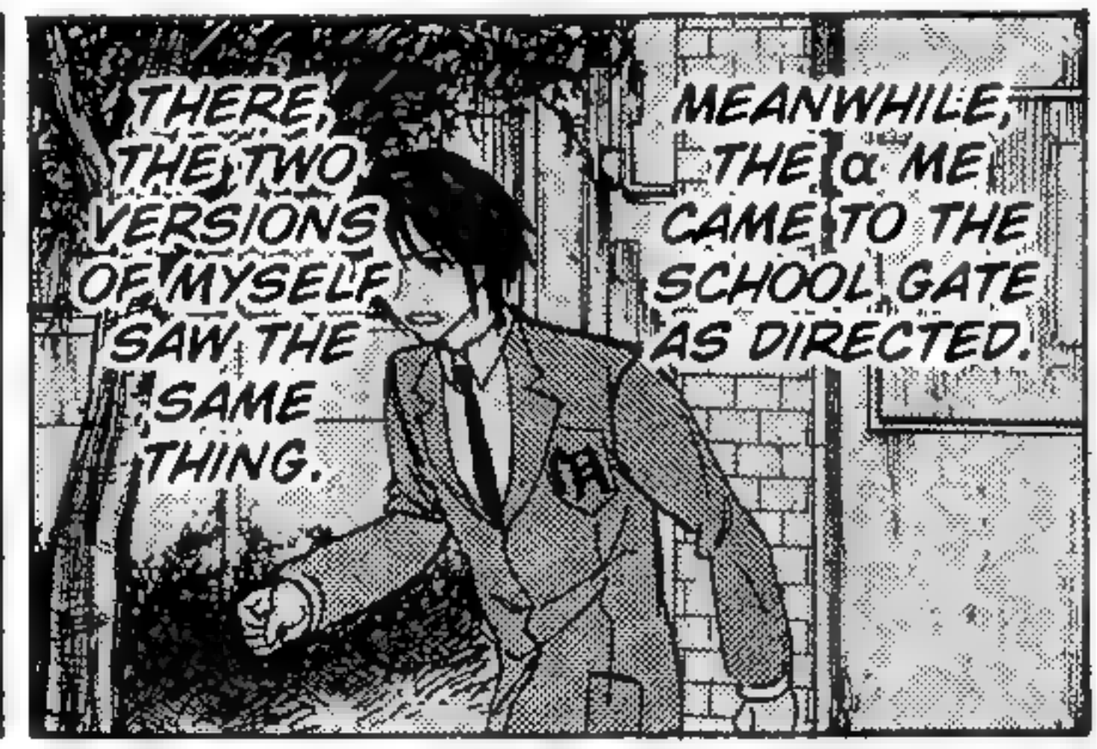
BUT MAYBE, JUST MAYBE ...


SO YASUMI LEFT A LETTER FOR SOMEONE OTHER THAN ME.
BUT WHY YOU, KOIZUMI?

"PLEASE COME TO THE SCHOOL GATE AT SIX O'CLOCK THIS EVE-NING."

...WHEN YOU YOU HEADED HERE WITH SASAKI-SAN, KYOKO TACHIBANA, AND THAT TIME TRAVELER.
THE β VERSION OF MYSELF FOLLOWED AFTER YOU...

BUT I HADN'T FELT ANY PREMONITIONS OF ITS APPEARANCE, SO IT WAS RATHER SURPRISING.
GOOD OLD CLOSED SPACE.


THERE, THE TWO VERSIONS OF MYSELF SAW THE SAME THING.
MEANWHILE, THE α ME CAME TO THE SCHOOL GATE AS DIRECTED.

...I MET MY α SELF ALONE.
THEN JUST BEFORE I ENTERED CLOSED SPACE WITH HER...

THEN, ASAHINA-SAN HERE CALLED OUT TO MY β SELF.

THAT'S YOUR WEAKNESS, KOIZUMI-KUN.

ALTHOUGH IT'S CERTAINLY TRUE THAT YOU WERE NECESSARY.

THE MOMENT WE TOUCHED, WE BECAME ONE PERSON.

AND I UNDERSTOOD EVERYTHING.

YOU KNOW THE REST.

YOU MUST BE JOKING!

...YOU'RE REALLY GOING TO GO THIS FAR IN INTERFERING WITH ME!?

YOU'RE ...

EDITING AN ALREADY-FIXED TIME PLANE WILL NOT CHANGE OUR FUTURE.

NO—IT MUST NOT BE CHANGED.

ARE YOU REALLY TRYING TO SOLIDIFY THAT FUTURE, EVEN IF IT MEANS SPLITTING THE WORLD IN TWO?

HE'S TREMBLING... ARE THESE HIS TRUE FEELINGS?

OR ME, OR ANYONE HERE...

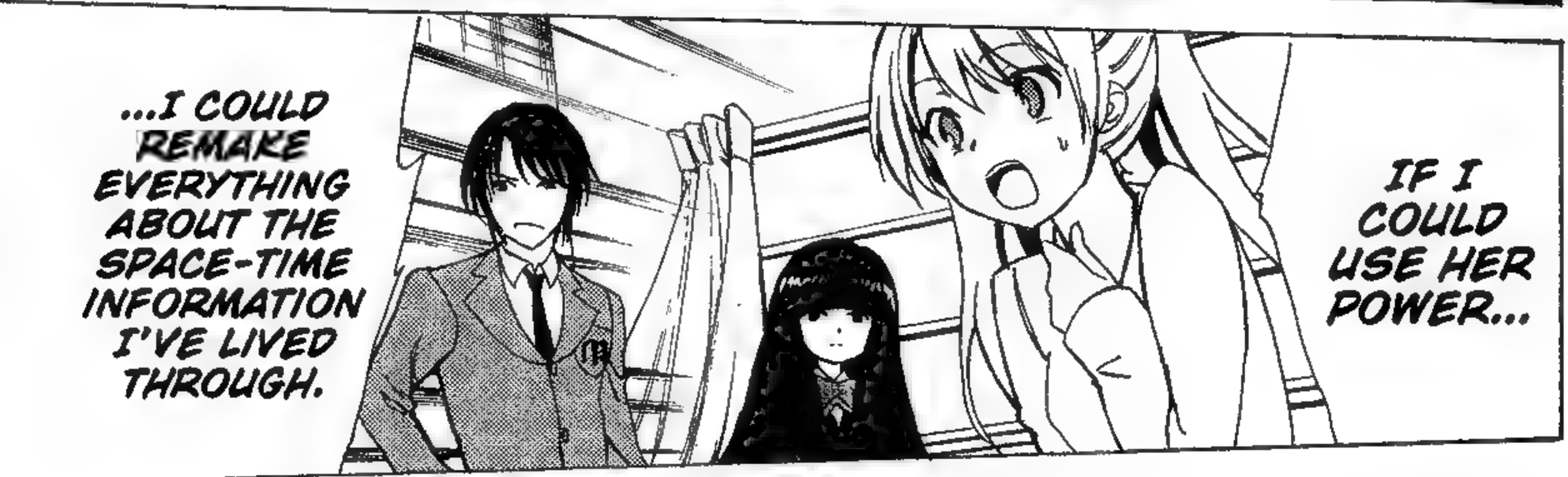
...IT'S IMPOSSIBLE FOR US.

TA (TMP)

IT WILL CHANGE.

NOT BECAUSE OF YOU.

BUT WITH THE POWER OF HARUHI SUZUMIYA, IT'S POSSIBLE.



...MY SISTER!

I DON'T WANT TO LOSE YOU...

AS IN, ASAHINA-SAN IS HIS...?

HUH? WHAT'D HE SAY? SISTER?

...CAN NEVER RETURN.

HISTORY THAT IS LOST... PEOPLE WHO ARE LOST...

AND LIKEWISE, THE ME WHO IS YOUR SISTER DOES NOT EXIST.

I... HAVE NO BROTHER.

WHY ELSE WOULD I DEAL WITH SUCH A—!

I WILL GET YOU BACK.

THAT'S WHY I JOINED FORCES WITH THAT EXTRATER-RESTRIAL INTELLI-GENCE.

TO THIS TIME PLANE, WHERE PEOPLE WALLOW IN THE FOLLY OF THEIR LIVES!

THAT'S WHY I CAME HERE!

PLEASE, FORGET ABOUT ME.

YOU MUSTN'T USE THE TPDD FOR SUCH THINGS.

WE DON'T BELONG HERE.

YOU MUST UNDER-STAND...

...HOW IMPORTANT HARUHI SUZUMIYA IS FOR THIS TIME PLANE.

IF IT WEREN'T FOR HER, OUR FUTURE WOULD BE...

WHAT THE FUTURE NEEDS ISN'T HARUHI SUZUMIYA, BUT HER POWER.

I KNOW.

THAT'S WHY I BET ON A SECOND POSSIBILITY.

AND MY ALLY, KYOKO TACHIBANA, FOUND THE PERFECT PERSON.

IF IT COULD BE TRANSFERRED TO SOMEONE ELSE, OTHER POSSIBILITIES APPEAR.

IT WOULD BE BETTER FOR US!

SHE CAN CONTROL IT MUCH MORE SKILLFULLY THAN HARUHI SUZUMIYA.

WE WOULDN'T BE TRAPPED BY FIXED EVENTS.

WE'D BE ABLE TO ERASE THEM...

...AND CHOOSE OUR OWN FUTURE!

WE'D BE ABLE TO ACCESS INFINITE POSSI-BILITY!

BA (WHAP)

I WANT TO CHOOSE A FUTURE WITH YOU IN IT!

THAT'S WHAT I WANT, MY SISTER!

THE SURPRISE OF HARUHI SUZUMIYA XI : END

TO BE CONTINUED

THE MELANCHOLY OF HARUHI SUZUMIYA

19

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